Fort Hoskins



Digital walking tour

Fort Hoskins Historic Park is located 16 miles northwest of Corvallis Oregon. Built by the U.S Army in 1856, it is one of three forts; Hoskins, Yamhill and Umpqua established to maintain peace between Native Americans and settlers and to quell anti-Union Southern sympathizers. Today a historic effort of another sort is bringing people together to raise awareness and funding for the restoration of the Commander's House. This historic building will serve as a gathering place and educational center to ensure that the legacy and lore of historic Fort Hoskins endure for generations to come.

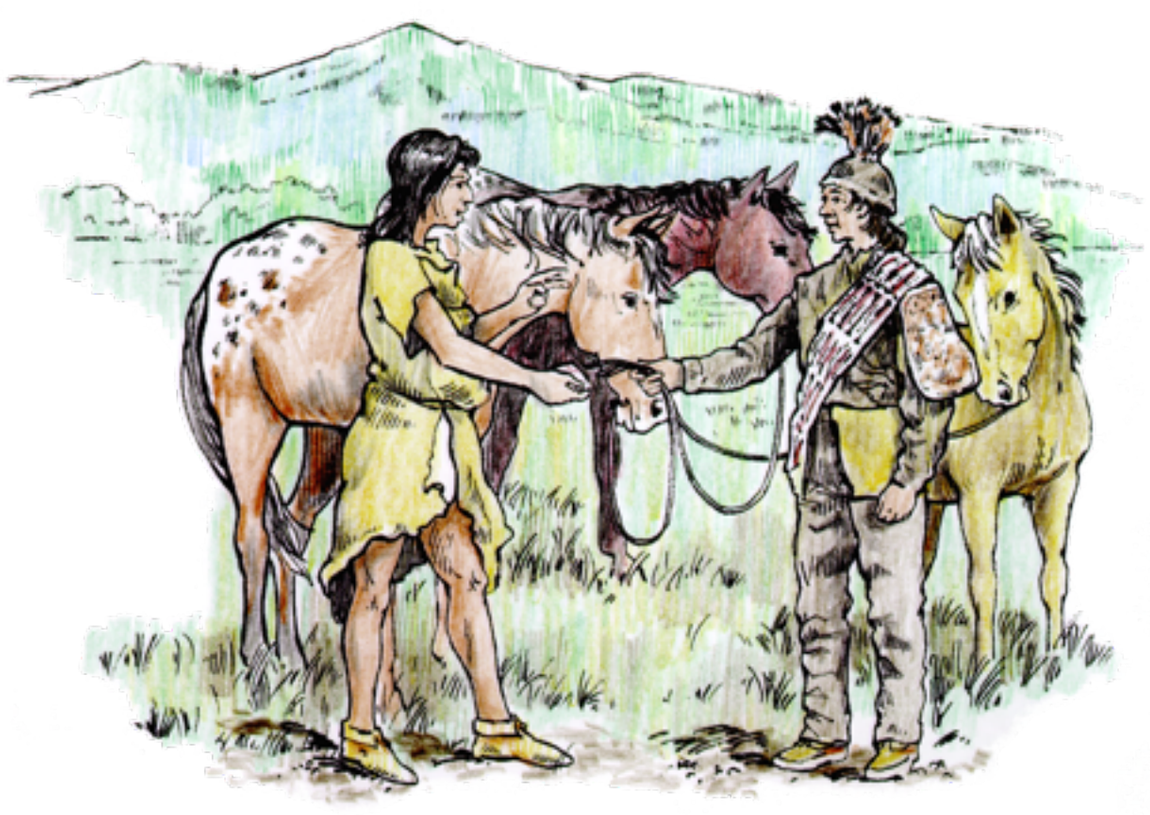


Chapter One Introduction

TAP the icon below to link to a YouTube videos that provides a complete tour of Fort Hoskins. You may watch them all at once or sequence through them as you complete your tour of the fort.







During your .06 mile self guided walking tour of the Fort, you will hear stories of the earliest inhabitants of the Willamette Valley and life during and after the Civil War era. Built by the U.S Army in 1856 the fort became a community center for work, commerce, education and culture in the Kings Valley area. With the end of the Civil War the fort was decommissioned in 1865. Buildings were dismantled and sold off. In 1992, the property at Fort Hoskins was acquired and became a Benton County Park.

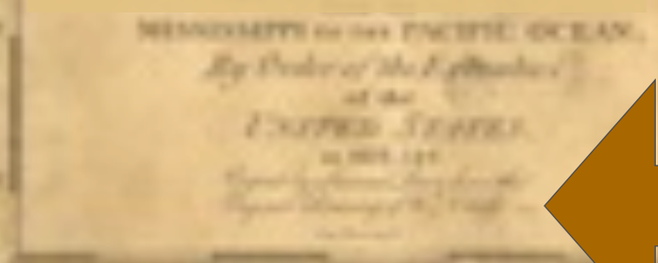
Take a moment to review this chapter. It will guide you through this publication plus provide a brief historical overview of what was going on in the 1850's. If it is **NOT** your good fortunate to be using this digital tour while at Fort Hoskins, enjoy and plan a visit soon.

NOTE: A portion of the media content for this publication involves a re-purposing of information, photos and interpretive panel themes and content originally provided by Benton County Natural Areas & Parks; Phase 1 interpretive plan.



Lewis & Clark Expedition Departs May 1804

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson negotiated the Louisiana Purchase and acquired an immense territory west of the Mississippi River from France. Later that year he commissioned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead and travel with the Corp of Discovery over land to the Pacific Ocean.

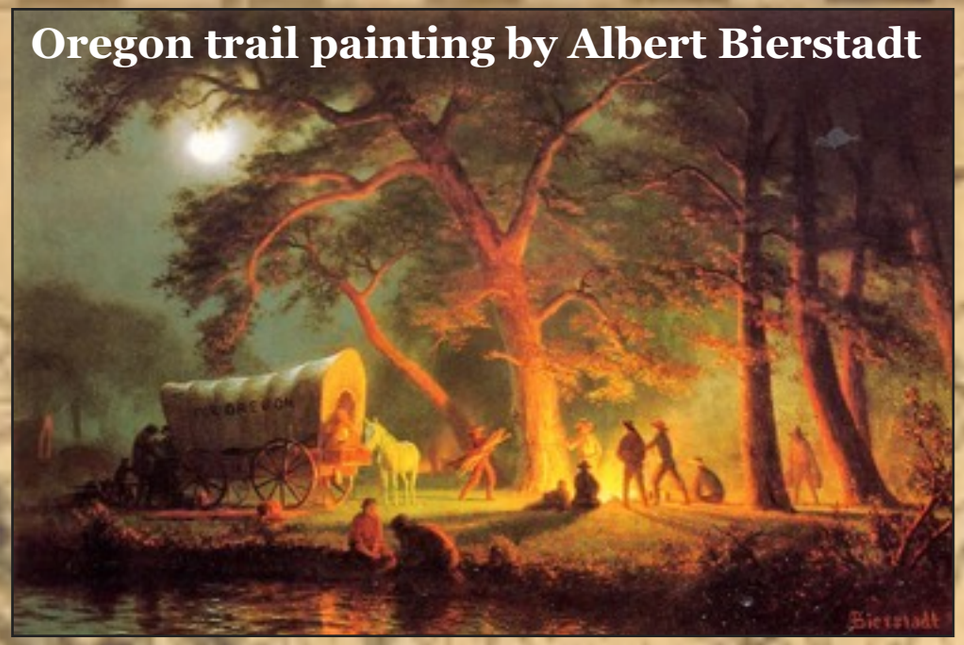


Rogue Indian Wars

Some whites banded together in the mid-1850s to kill Native Americans in southern Oregon. This included aggression against Takelma Indians camped near Lower Table Rock in Jackson County.

More on Rogue wars on Page 28





Oregon trail painting by Albert Bierstadt

The Oregon Trail

Beginning in the first decades of the 1800's wagon trains of pioneers seeking vast new opportunity & challenge became the first white settlers into the fertile and mostly hospitable territory of the west. The Oregon climate, fertile soil and navigable rivers made the Oregon Territory the perfect place for farming, homesteading and commerce. Government policies and actions opened the west for settlement but often at the expense of Native Tribes who were forced to cede their homelands and move onto reservations.

1800 — 1840

Map Source Wikimedia Commons

Time line of Western Expansion

Gold Fever

The discovery of gold in central California and Southern Oregon became a siren call to men (and their reluctant) families to abandon 'normal' lives and race out west for the promise of instant and otherwise unachievable wealth. Gold was discovered at Rich Gulch just outside of Jacksonville Oregon in 1851.





Fort Hoskins

Built by the U.S Army in 1856 Hoskins, was one of three forts (along with Forts Yamhill and Umpqua) established to maintain peace between Naive Americans and settlers. With the outbreak of the Civil War emphasis shifted from policing the Siletz Indian Reservation to managing anti-Union secessionist efforts in the Willamette Valley.

Native Americans

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have ancient origins in western Oregon. Their ancestors ceded approximately 20 million acres to the United States in the 1850's under treaties promising a permanent reservation.



Mollie Charmichael & her mother Mrs. Yanna of the Siletz Tribe.

1850 1860



Westward expansion was often motivated by the quest for open spaces and fertile land. **The Donation Land Claim Act** was enacted in late 1850 by the United States Congress. Intended to promote homestead settlements in the Oregon Territory, the law brought thousands of white settlers.

The act granted 320 acres of designated areas free to every unmarried white male citizen eighteen or older–and 640 acres to every married couple.

In the case of a married couple, the husband and wife each owned half of the total grant in their own name.

The law was one of the first that allowed married women in the United States to hold property under their own name. Claimants were required to live on the land and cultivate it for four years to own it outright.

FROM WIKIPEDIA

Chapter Two Welcome to Fort Hoskins

Welcome to a self-guided tour of Fort Hoskins Historic Park located in the Northwest corner of Benton County, Oregon. Today it remains a remnant of times past; inviting picnickers, history buffs and lovers of the great outdoors to visit, reflect and reminisce at this historic gem of Oregon's history.

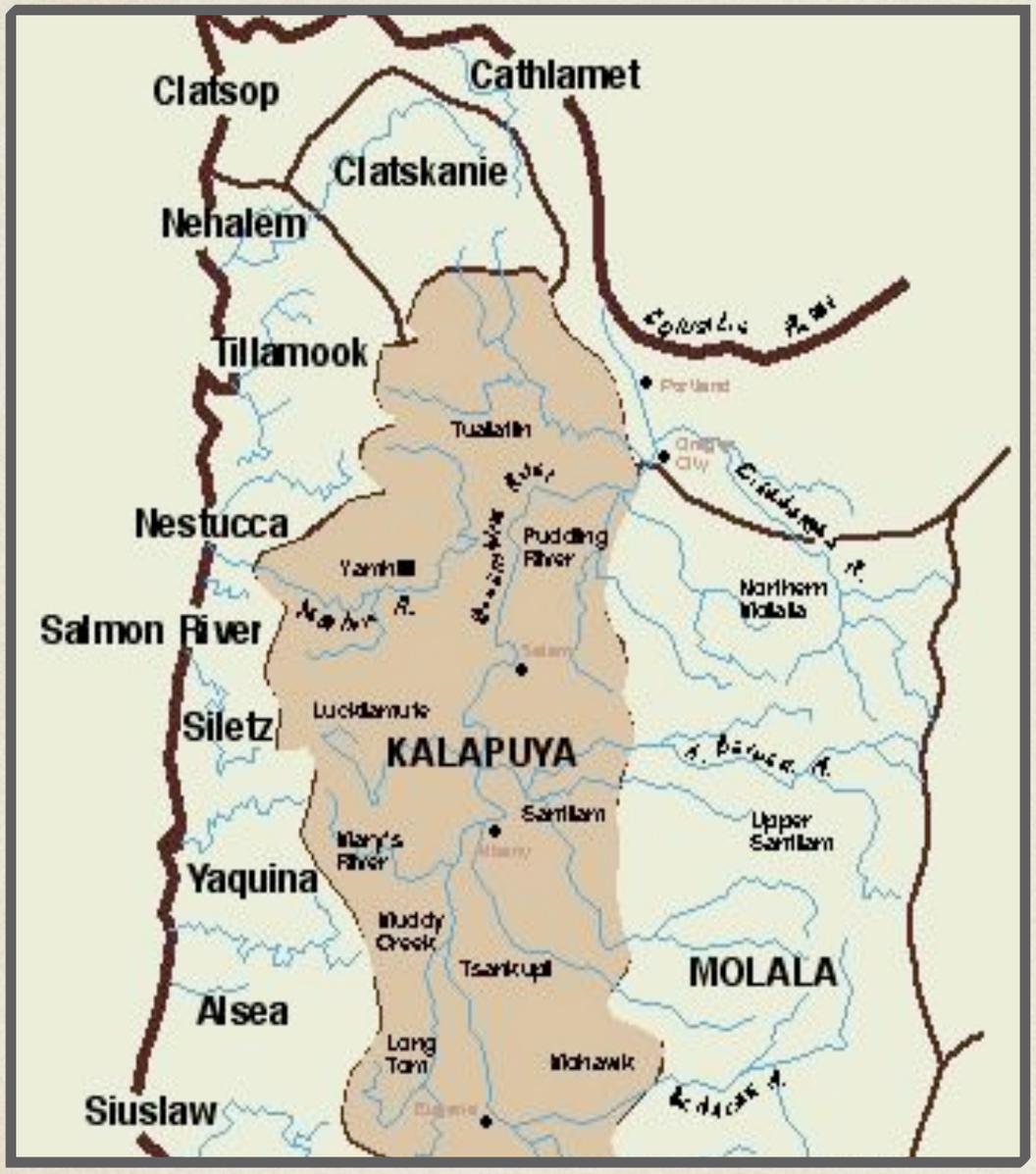




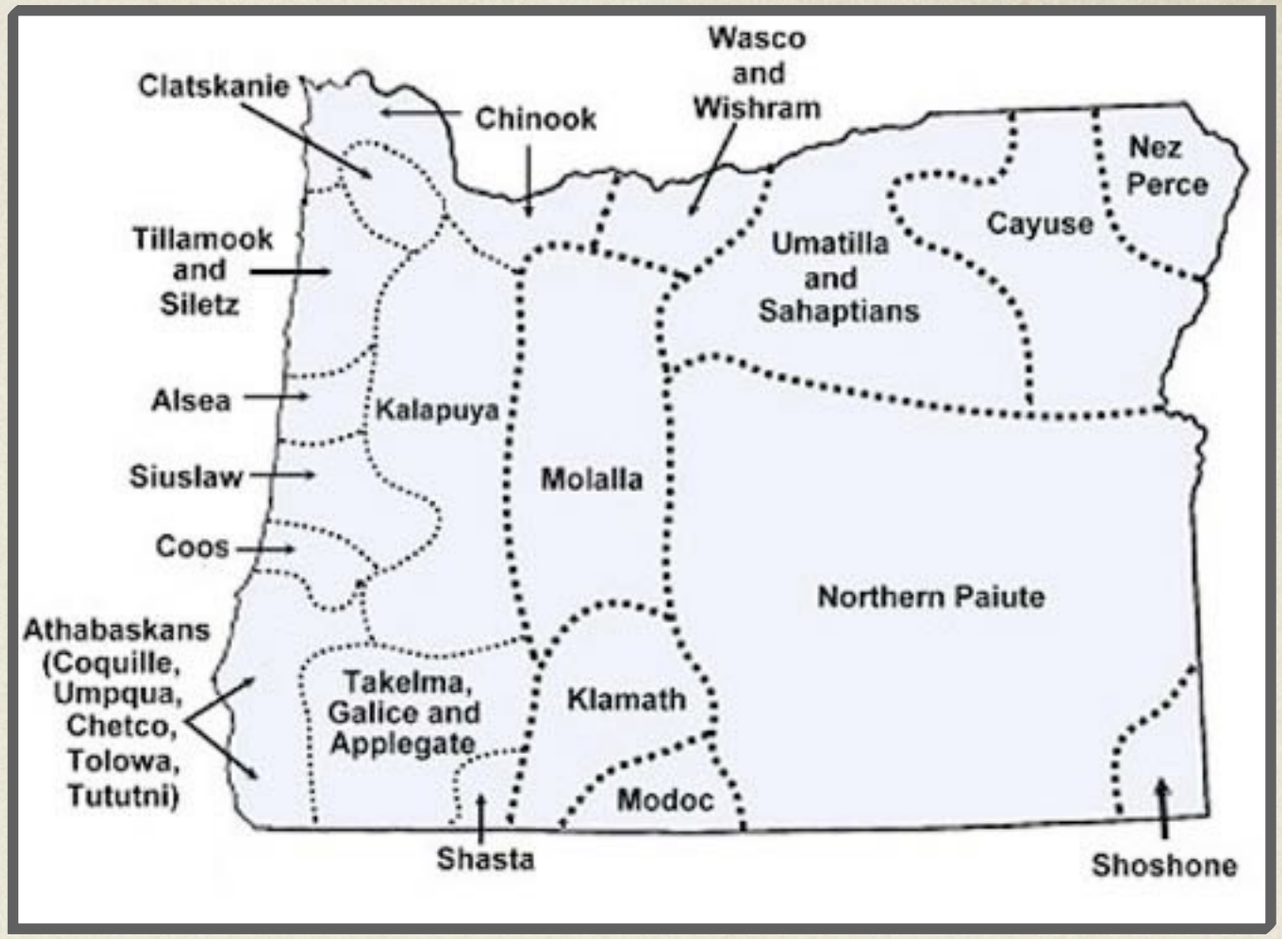
This tour will take you to eight historical stations, each of which will provide information and learning opportunities on the history and culture of Fort Hoskins



We begin our narrative of the area before “recorded history” It is not uncommon to think of history as having begun with the settlers to the west. The concepts of ‘recorded history’ or ‘written history’ define the historical narrative as recorded with printed words and documented communication. This neglects the story of the early inhabitants whose oral tradition passed on learning, lore and wisdom through (mainly) spoken word.



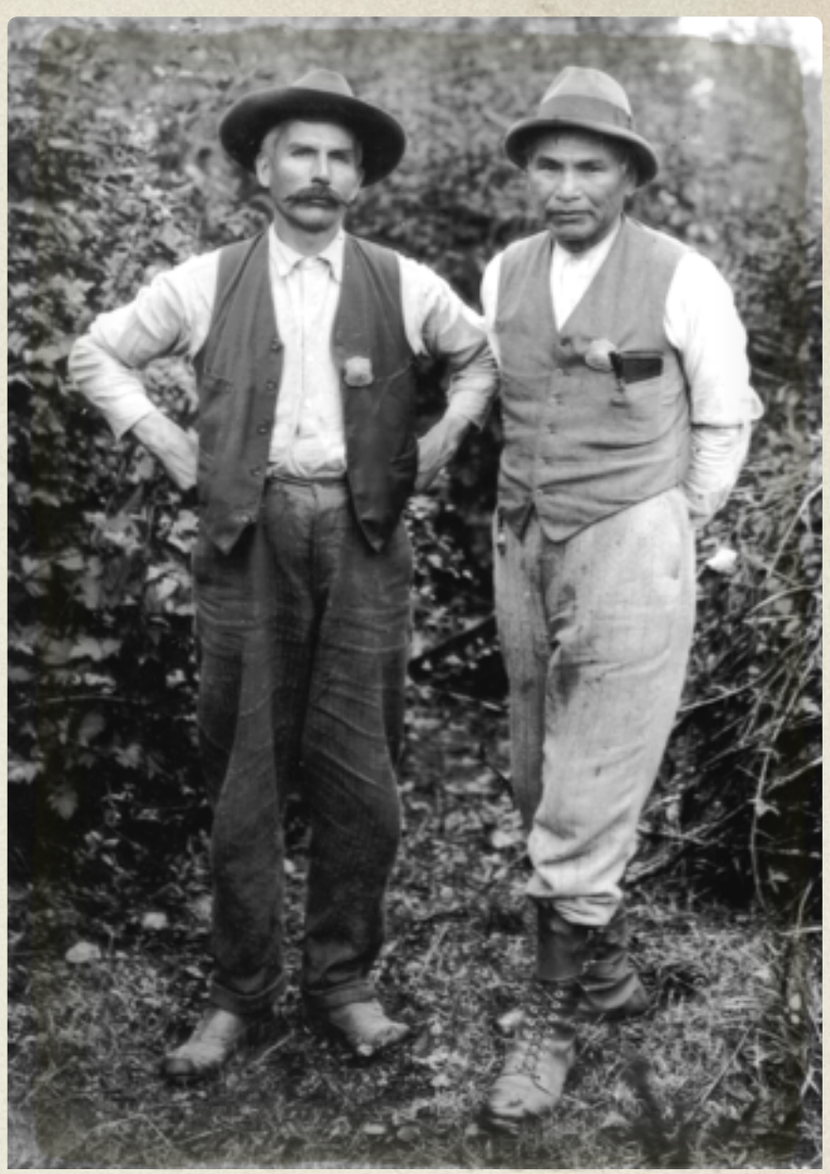
Distribution of the various bands of Kalapuya people who occupied western Oregon for many thousands of years. (prior to treaties & reservations)



The Luckiamute Band of Kalapuya Indians once maintained a village on the valley floor. They were one of the many linguistically and culturally related bands of people collectively known as the Kalapuya who occupied the Willamette Valley. The Kalapuya intensively managed the landscape, setting fires that encouraged growth of food plants (camas, tarweed, white oak) and plants for baskets, mats and various tools (hazel, rushes, bear grass). Burning also provided better forage for game animals, better hunting areas, travel routes and lower fuel loads guarded against catastrophic wild fires.









Above Left Mollie Carmichael & her mother (Mrs. Yanna) of the Siletz Tribe

Center Hoxie Simmons, Rogue River and Yamhill Kalapuya Indian of the Siletz Tribe"

Right Hoxie Simmons and Tom Jackson, Siletz Tribal Policemen, Hoxie [R] born King's Valley, 1872"

Left Grand Ronde traditional stick game early 1900's

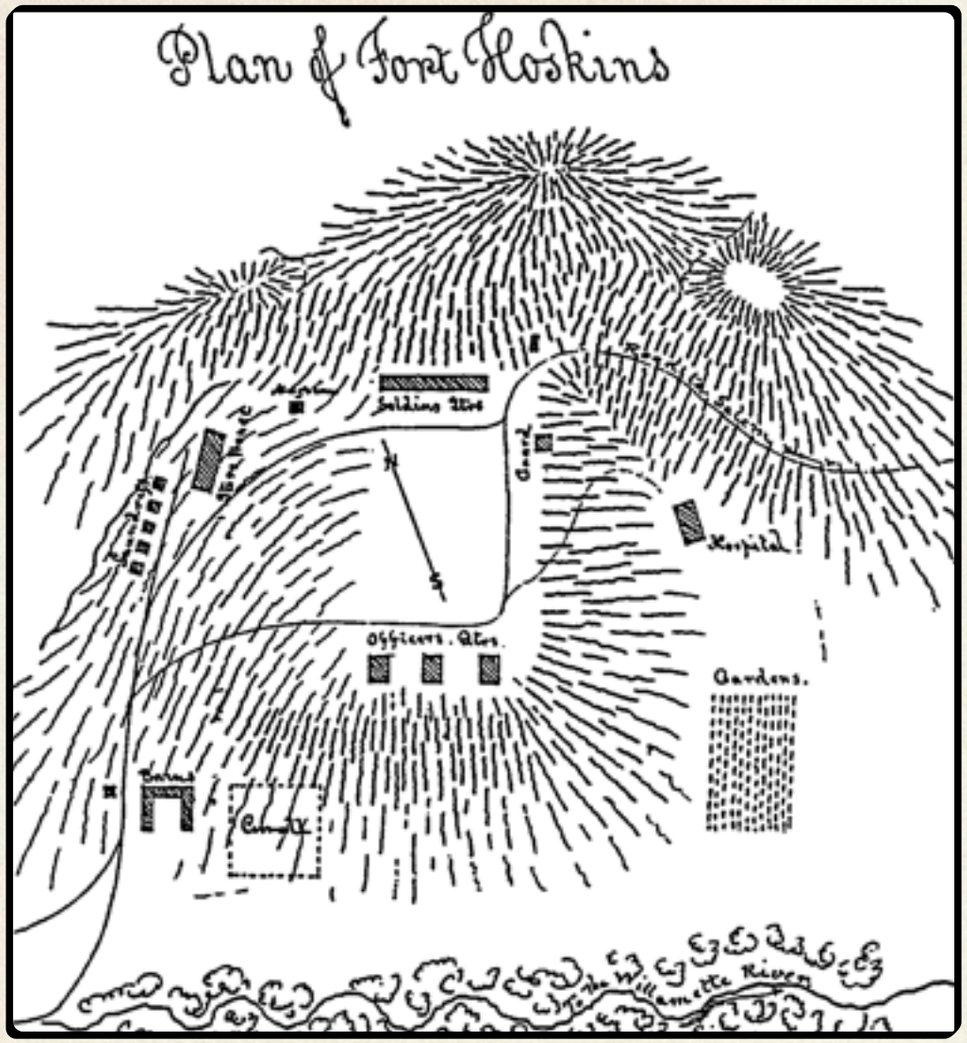
A party of 25 people led by Nahum King settled in Kings Valley (named for them) in 1846 after crossing the Oregon Trail. Here the settlers found open prairies and oak groves the Kalapuya had managed for thousands of years. The homesteaders took full advantage of this lush oak-savanna habitat, quickly converting the flood plain and foothill prairies to crop production and pasturage, while taking fuel, lumber, and wild game from the timbered uplands.





The King Family





November of 1858, plan of Fort Hoskins by Colonel J. Mansfield shows three officers quarters along one end of the upper parade ground overlooking the river, an enlisted men's barracks at the opposite end of the upper parade, the infirmary (hospital) down the embankment to the south, and other fort buildings, (bakery, laundry, ammunitions storage etc.) along the lower parade ground.



View of the former fort from approximately this same location during a rededication ceremony of Fort Hoskins. Organized by Professor John B. Horner, Oregon State Agricultural College, on Memorial Day, 1922.



The US Army established Fort Hoskins in 1856 on the bench below to monitor traffic entering and leaving the newly established Siletz Indian Reservation. Located at the crossroads of two major trails, the fort quickly became a regional center of economic and political activity.

When the Civil war ended, Samuel and Mary Frantz purchased the decommissioned fort property, built the Frantz-Dunn house that still stands on the southeast side of the park, and replaced the barracks with barns, a blacksmith shop, and other farm structures.

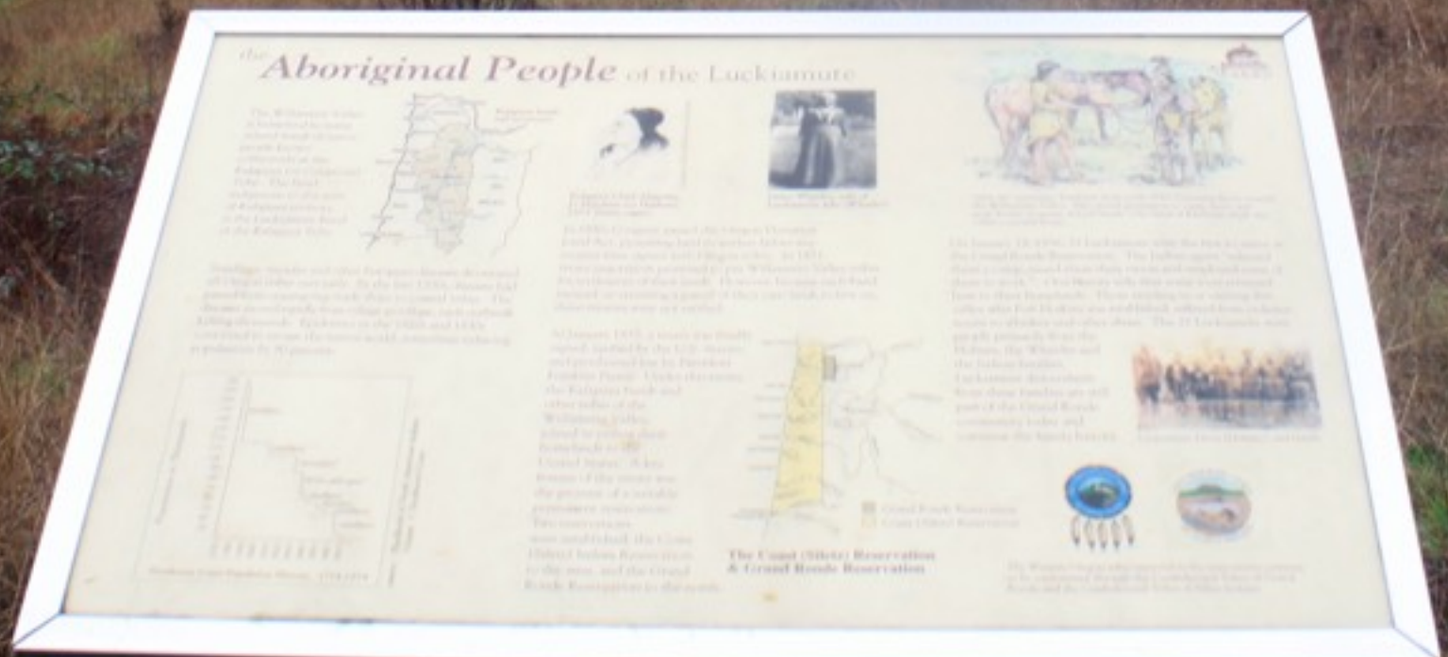
A long-term oak savanna restoration project dominates the hillside above this overlook. By removing young Douglas-fir trees, reintroducing native plants, and using periodic fire management, Benton County is reestablishing the habitat familiar to the Kalapuya, the soldiers at Fort Hoskins and the early Kings Valley pioneers.





Chapter Three
Oregon's First People

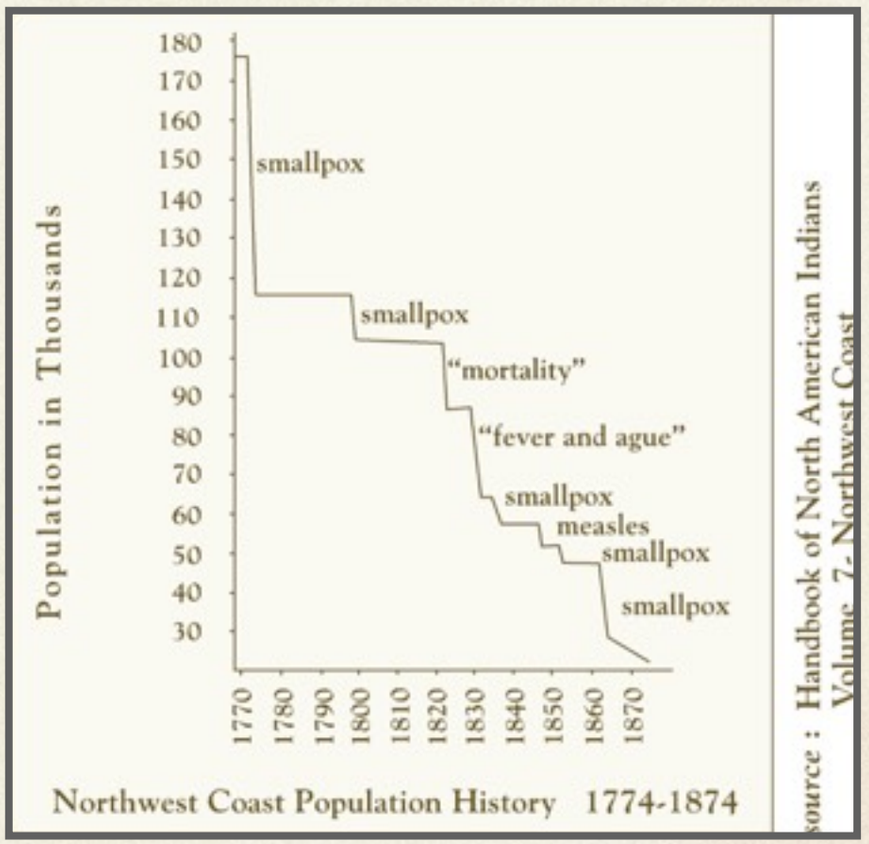
From this viewpoint you can see and imagine
what this valley looked like before settlers arrived.



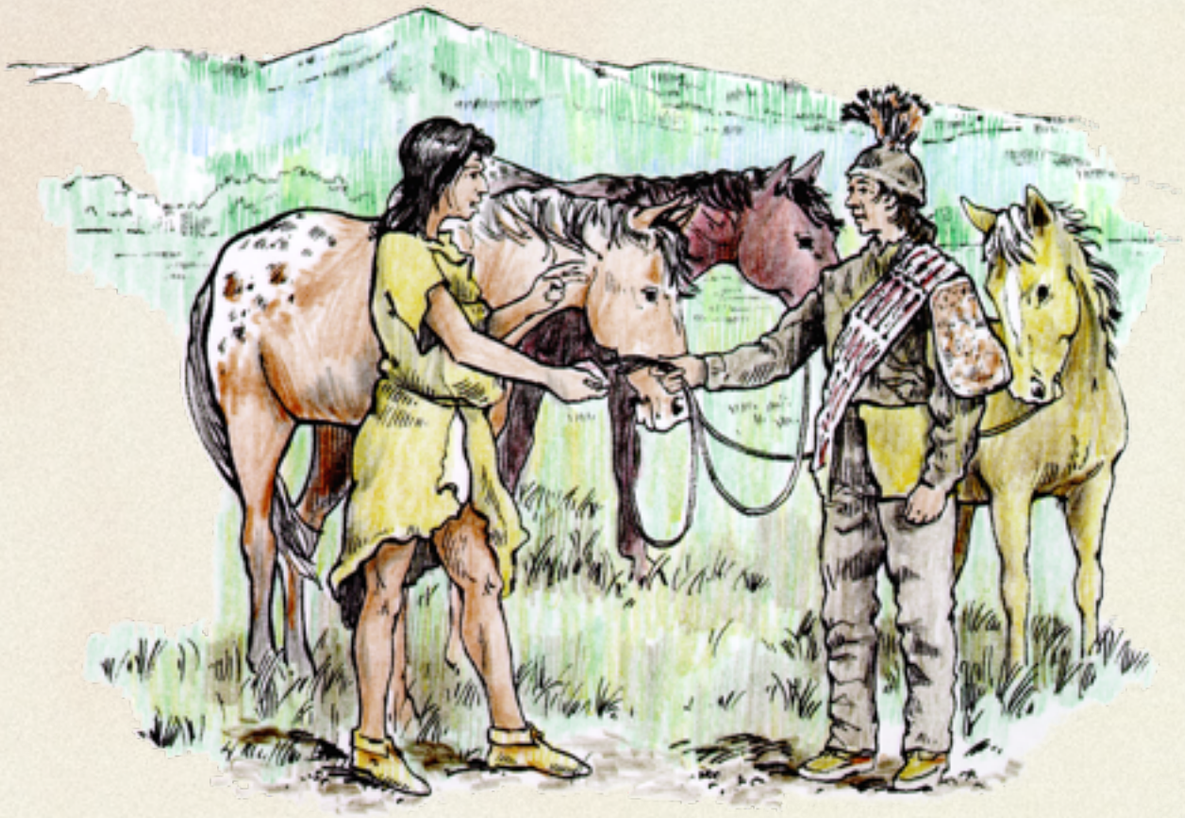
Aboriginal People of the Luckiamute



The Willamette Valley is homeland to many related bands of native people known collectively as the Kalapuya (or Calapooia) Tribe. The band indigenous to this part of Kalapuya territory is the Luckiamute Band of the Kalapuya Tribe. (< **Map left**) Smallpox, measles, and other European diseases devastated all Oregon tribes very early. By the late 1700s, disease had passed from fur trappers and traders to coastal tribes. The diseases moved rapidly from village to village, each outbreak killing thousands. Epidemics began in the 1780s and were renewed by 1829 to last into the 1850s. Some tribes, like the Kalapuya, lost 97% of their people to influenza, smallpox, and malaria.



Consider:
Why were these diseases were so devastating to the Native American Population?





Luckiamute Davis (Holmes), and family

The Willamette Valley region, traditional homeland to Kalapuya Native American tribes, looked very different prior to European settlement. Broad riparian flood plains extended far beyond today's river banks, providing refuge for fish and rich nutrients to prairies. Deer, salmon and waterfowl were abundant. Large tracts of wetland supported beavers, with dams impounding water, recharging aquifers. Diverse floral displays provided nectar for insect pollinators, which in turn supported song birds. In the foot hills moist north and east facing slopes are where large trees were found, as south aspect slopes were dryer, more easily burned and where oak savannahs thrived. As settlers moved into the Willamette Valley, they described the wonder of prairies burning in the late summer evenings. Natural resources were, in part, human managed landscapes. Fires were set to clear the land, making travel easier and enticing game to lush new growth. After a burn, some plant species grew multiple straight shoots, ideal for arrow shafts. Native Americans revered the land for the bounty it provided. Natural resources were Native Peoples' grocery, hardware store, pharmacy and clothing outlet. The earth was life.

In 1850, Congress passed the Oregon Donation Land Act, a departure from U.S. Indian policy. This act Promised settlers land before treaties ceding Indian “title” to the United States S and created warfare, hardships, and unnecessary suffering.
In 1851, treaty negotiations promised to pay Willamette Valley tribes for settlement of their lands. However, because each tribe insisted on a permanent reservation within their traditional territory these treaties were not ratified.
In January 1855, a treaty was finally signed by the Willamette Valley Tribes and then ratified by the U.S. Senate, and proclaimed law by President Franklin Pierce. Under this treaty, the Kalapuya band and other tribes of the Willamette Valley joined in ceding their homelands to the United States. A key feature of the treaty was the promise of a suitable permanent reservation.
In November 1855, the Coast (Siletz) Reservation was created by President Franklin Pierce. It was intended to be the permanent reservation for all western Oregon Tribes.
A temporary encampment was established just off the NE corner of the new reservation, on the South Fork of the Yamhill River, as a staging area for removal of Tribes to the reservation. When it was proposed to extend the reservation to include this encampment, instead President Buchanan established the Grand Ronde Reservation (June 30, 1857).
Continued on next page.



Grace Wheeler wife of ‘ Luckiamute’ Jake Wheeler

On January 19, 1856, 21 Lukiamute people had been the first Willamette Valley Indians to remove to the encampment which would later become the Grand Ronde Reservation. The Indian Agent selected them a camp, issued them their rations, and employed some of them to work in agriculture or logging. Federal policy did not allow Indians to leave their reservation without a pass signed by the Agent, caught without one, they were severely punished.



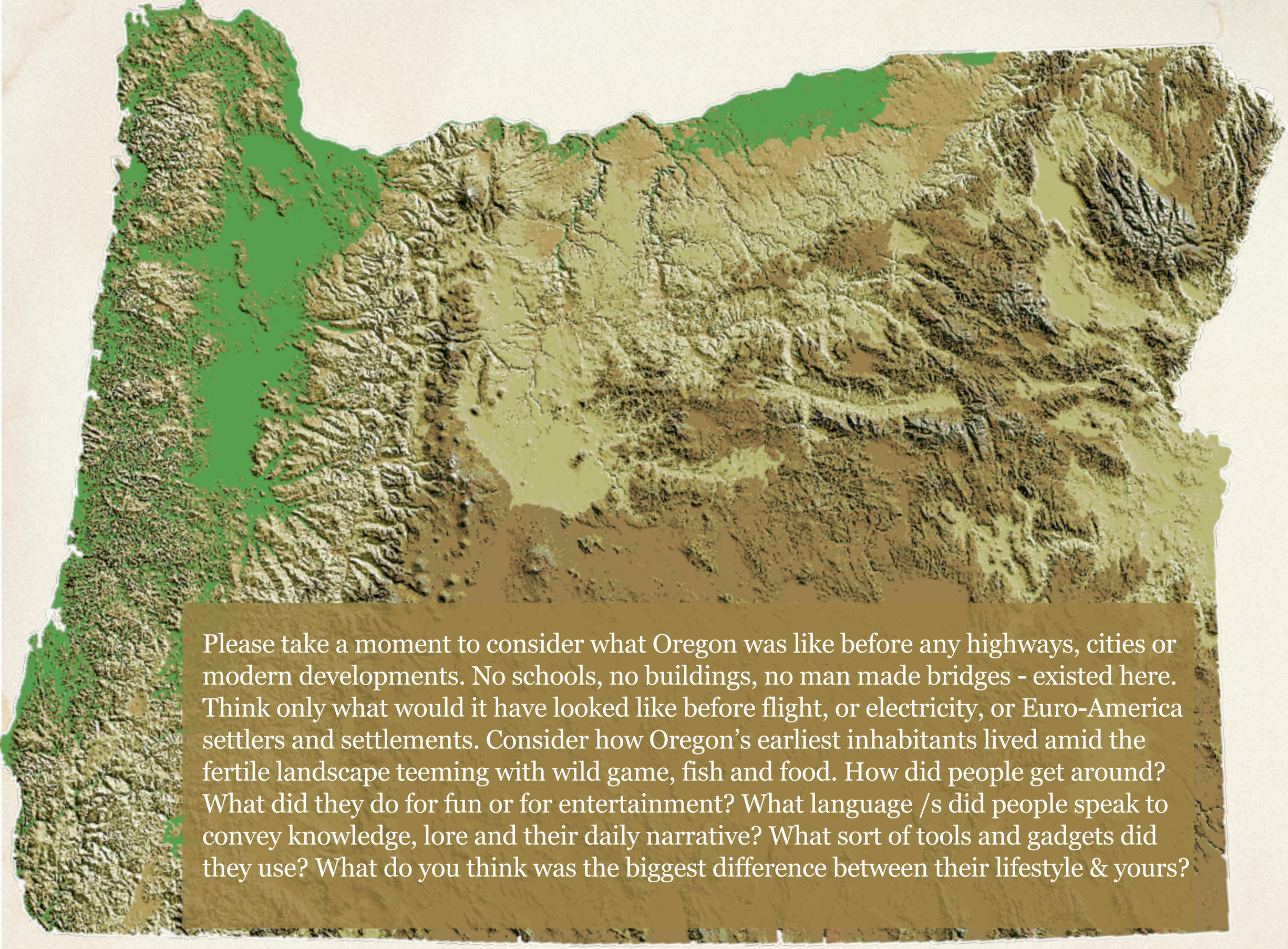
Joseph Hudson or Jo Hutchins, Santiam spokesman. (**above**) Likely sketched at treaty negotiations by George Gibbs, Champoeg, Oregon 1851. Jo Hutchins' Speech to Superintendent Meacham, at the Grand Ronde Reservation from 1869 appears on the next page.

"I am watching your eye. I am watching your tongue. I am thinking all the time. Perhaps you are making fools of us. We don't want to be made fools. I have heard tyees [chiefs] talk like you do now. They go back home and send us something a white man don't want. We are not dogs. We have hearts. We may be blind. We do not see the things the treaty promised. Maybe they got lost on the way. The President is a long way off. He can't hear us. Our words get lost in the wind before they get there. Maybe his ear is small. Maybe your ears are small. They look big. Our ears are large. We hear everything.

"Some things we don't like. We have been a long time in the mud. Sometimes we sink down. Some white men help us up. Some white men stand on our heads. We want a schoolhouse build on the ground of the Santiam people. Then our children can have some sense.We want an Indian to work in the blacksmith shop. We don't like halfbreeds. They are not Indians. They are not white men. Their hearts are divided. We want some harness. We want some ploughs. We want a sawmill. What is a mill good for that has no dam? That old mill is not good; it won't saw boards. "We want a church. Some of these people are Catholics. Some of them are like Mr. Parish, a Methodist. Some got no religion. Maybe they don't need religion.

"Some people think Indians got no sense. We don't want any blankets. We have had a heap of blankets. Some of them have been like sail-cloth muslin. The old people have got no sense; they want blankets. The treaty said we, every man, have his land, he have a paper for his land. We don't see the paper. We see the land. We want it divided. When we have land all in one place, some Indians put his horses in the field; another Indian turn them out. Then they go to law. One man says another man got the best ground. They go to law about that. We want the land marked out. Every man builds his own house. We want some apples. Mark out the land, then we plant some trees, by-and-by we have some apples.

"Maybe you don't like my talk. I talk straight. I am not a coward. I am chief of the Santiams. You hear me now. We see your eyes; look straight. Maybe you are a good man. We will find out. Sochala-tyee-God sees you. he sees us. All these people hear me talk. Some of them are scared. I am not afraid. Alta-kup-et-I am done." -- **Jo Hutchins' Speech to Superintendent Meacham, Grand Ronde, 1869**



Please take a moment to consider what Oregon was like before any highways, cities or modern developments. No schools, no buildings, no man made bridges - existed here. Think only what would it have looked like before flight, or electricity, or Euro-America settlers and settlements. Consider how Oregon's earliest inhabitants lived amid the fertile landscape teeming with wild game, fish and food. How did people get around? What did they do for fun or for entertainment? What language /s did people speak to convey knowledge, lore and their daily narrative? What sort of tools and gadgets did they use? What do you think was the biggest difference between their lifestyle & yours?



http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/

Tap the link at left to read an excerpted selection from "The Great Nation of Futurity," The United States Democratic Review, Volume 6, Issue 23, pp. 426-430 published November 1839.

Taken in context (of the time) it will offer you a deeper understanding of the American quest to fulfill its Manifest Destiny. This document comes from the Making of America site at Cornell University Library where you can find and download vital documents from the past.



Chapter Four
Frantz Dunn House



The Frantz-Dunn House

In November 1866, Samuel and Mary Frantz arrived in Hoskins with their seven children after traveling by wagon from Iowa. Too late to take advantage of the donation land claims, the couple had to buy land, purchasing the recently decommissioned Fort Hoskins property. For the next three years the Frantz family lived in one of the cramped officer's quarters while they started a business and built a house.

Although Samuel Frantz had no prior experience with sawmills, he ran a successful one in Hoskins. Using lumber from the mill, Frantz completed this Gothic Revival style home around 1869 next to the fort's infirmary and near a reliable spring that fed an existing cold cellar.

Although the house was impressive in style, it had no interior plumbing at the time. Imagine bathing, cleaning and cooking for nine children (they had two more after arriving in Oregon) without running water or an indoor toilet.



Edson "Doc" (1863-1945) and Nettie (1875-1951) Frantz. Doc, son of Mary and Samuel, lived in the house from 1896 until his death.



Front elevation of Frantz-Dunn house created during the 1997 HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) survey funded by the Kinsman Foundation. Although the original porch had been modified, this drawing clearly illustrates the unusual asymmetry of the front door, upstairs gable & three windows

The T-shape of the house is typical of Gothic Revival homes from this era; however, the asymmetry of the front elevation is unusual. Having undergone remarkably few alterations since its construction, this in one of the best remaining examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Benton County.

It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 as a significant element of the Fort Hoskins site.

The house remained in the same family until Benton County acquired the property from the estate of Dick and Francis Dunn (Burbank) in 1992. Dick Dunn was related to the Frantz family, and it was his wish that the land where his relatives had first built a dream some 125 years earlier go into public trust and be preserved for the education of future generations.



The Frantz family gathered in front of the house in 1891, probably on the day of Samuel Frantz' funeral. Samuel's wife Mary is seated fourth from the right (wearing dark dress). The original front porch, which did not span the full width of the house, was flat and featured a balcony accessed by an upstairs door.



View of the Frantz-Dunn house from across the original military road to Fort Hoskins. The barn stood on the upper ground of the former fort site. The paved country road that today runs in the valley below the house was not constructed until 1922, which explains why the house faces the military road instead of the modern road.

Chapter Five
Fort Hoskins

Fort Hoskins, 1856-1865

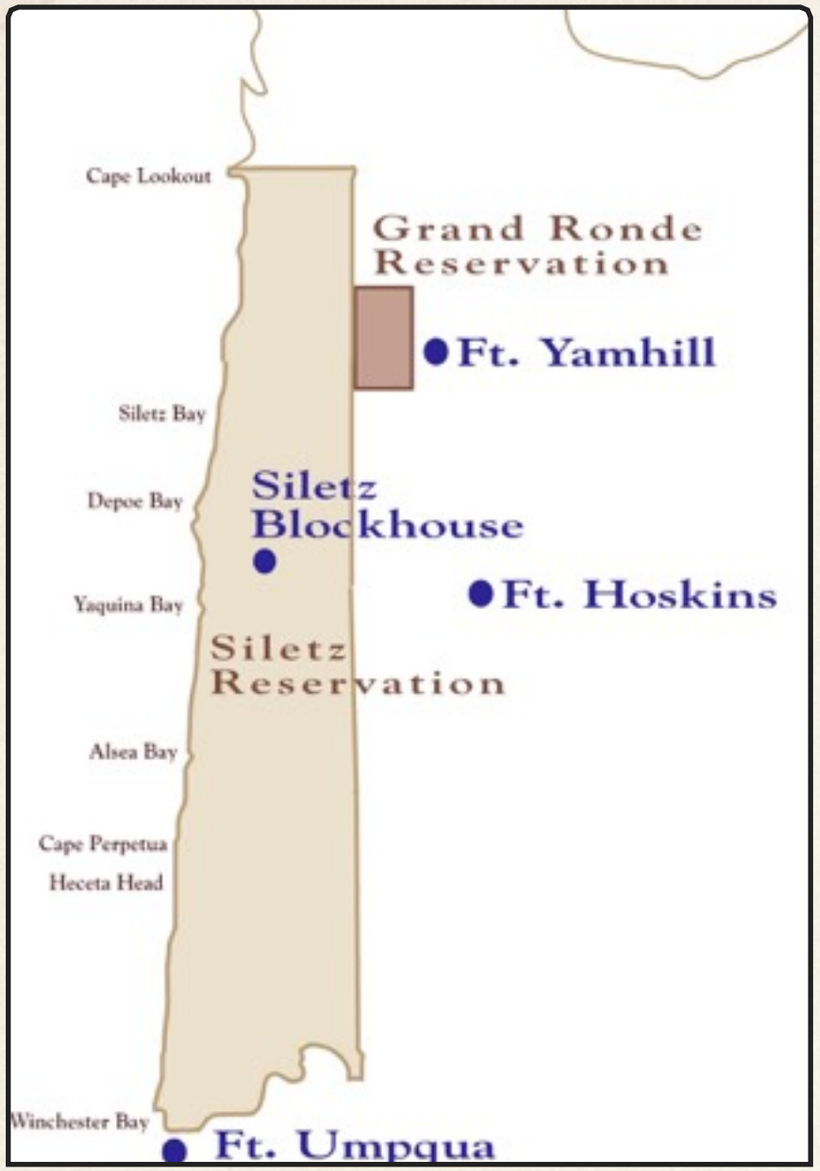




You are standing (or could be) on the once bustling parade ground of a military fort that overlooked the Luckiamute River Valley. The 200-300 troops serving here were charged with protecting the newly established Coast (Siletz) Indian Reservation to the west from encroachment and harassment by settlers, and with confining and monitoring tribes to the reservation. During the Civil War, troops also kept the secessionist movement in the mid-Willamette Valley from erupting into armed conflict.

Stationed at the end of military supply lines, soldiers here had to tolerate sporadic deliveries of food and other amenities. Occasionally, (but unofficially) their diets included “slow bear,” their term for pigs poached from local farms.

Unlike other forts, Fort Hoskins had no stockade wall or blockhouse and was surrounded only by a picket fence. Buildings featured running water piped in from an uphill spring (archaeological work determined the pipes were rolled lead), but heating the fort buildings through the long wet winters consumed huge amounts of firewood.



Fort Hoskins was one of three Oregon forts established to protect and monitor the Coast (Siletz) Reservation and the Grand Ronde Reservation. Fort Yamhill was positioned on the Yamhill River to the north and Fort Umpqua near the mouth or the Umpqua River to the south. Troops from Fort Hoskins also garrisoned a block-house on Government Hill near the Siletz Agency

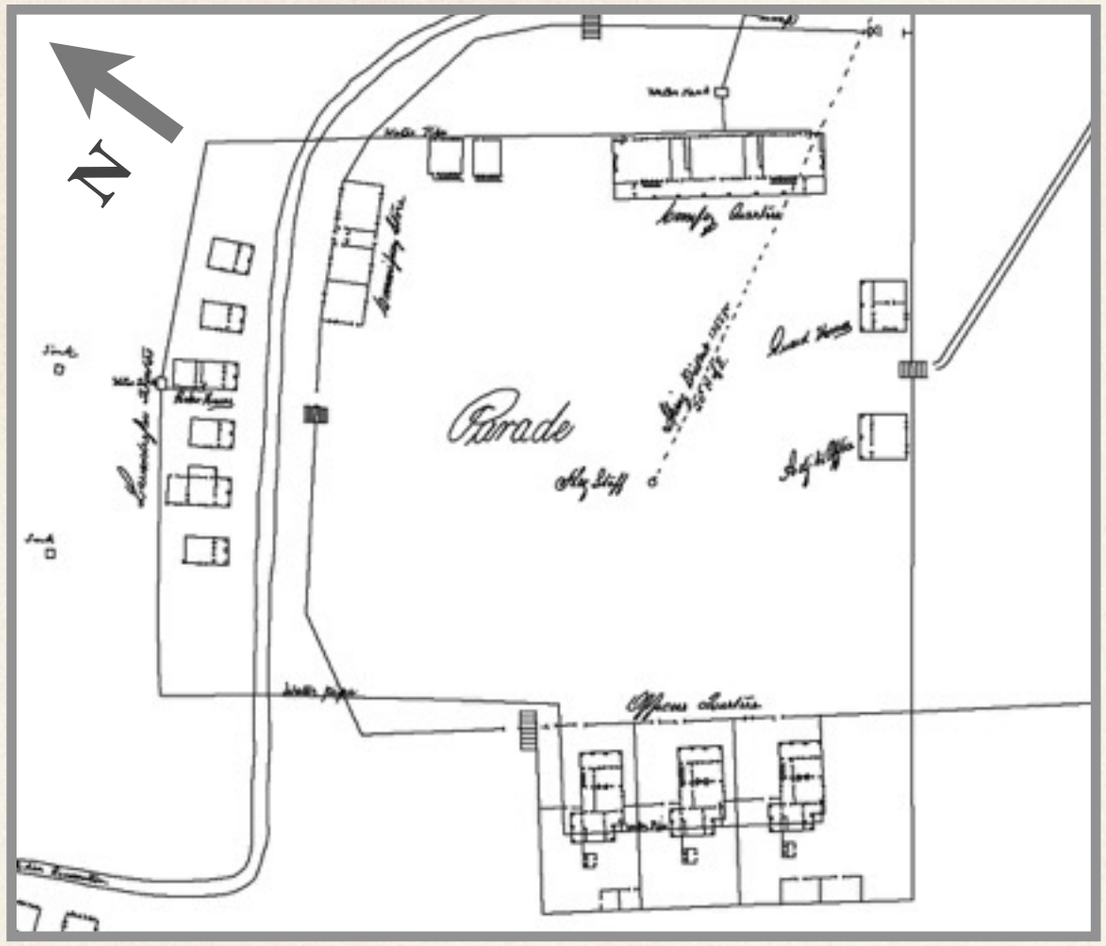
(< Map on Left)

Established in 1856, Fort Hoskins was garrisoned by Company G and F of the 4th U.S. Infantry under Captain Christopher C. Augur, and was named for Lieutenant Charles Hoskins, killed during the Mexican War while serving alongside Augur. With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, troops here were summoned east. State vol-unteers garrisoned the fort until it was permanently closed when the war ended in 1865. (**See table below**)

Companies Stationed at Fort Hoskins

Company	Commander	Date Garrisoned
G, 4th Infantry	Captain Auger *	July 25, 1856 - June 25, 1861
F, 4th Infantry	Lt. Wheeler	March 22 - April 8, 1857
B, 9th Infantry	Captain Dent	April 18 - April 30, 1857
F, 4th Infantry	Captain Floyd-Jones	June 19, 1857 - Jan. 19, 1858
F, 4th Infantry	Captain Floyd-Jones	Oct. 5, 1858 - June 14, 1861
B, 9th Infantry	Captain Dent*	June 20, 1861 - Nov. 1 1861
B, 2nd California Infantry	Captain Schmidt*	Nov. 1, 1861 - July 14, 1862
D, 1st Washington Infantry	Captain Seidenstricker*	July 14, 1862 - April 4, 1863
D, 4th California Infantry	Lt. Garden/Captain Scott*	April 4, 1863 - Oct. 8, 1864
B, 1st Oregon Infantry	Captain Palmer*	Dec. 29, 1864 - April 10, 1865
F, 1st Oregon Infantry	Captain Waters	Dec. 29, 1864 - April 10, 1865

* Fort Commander

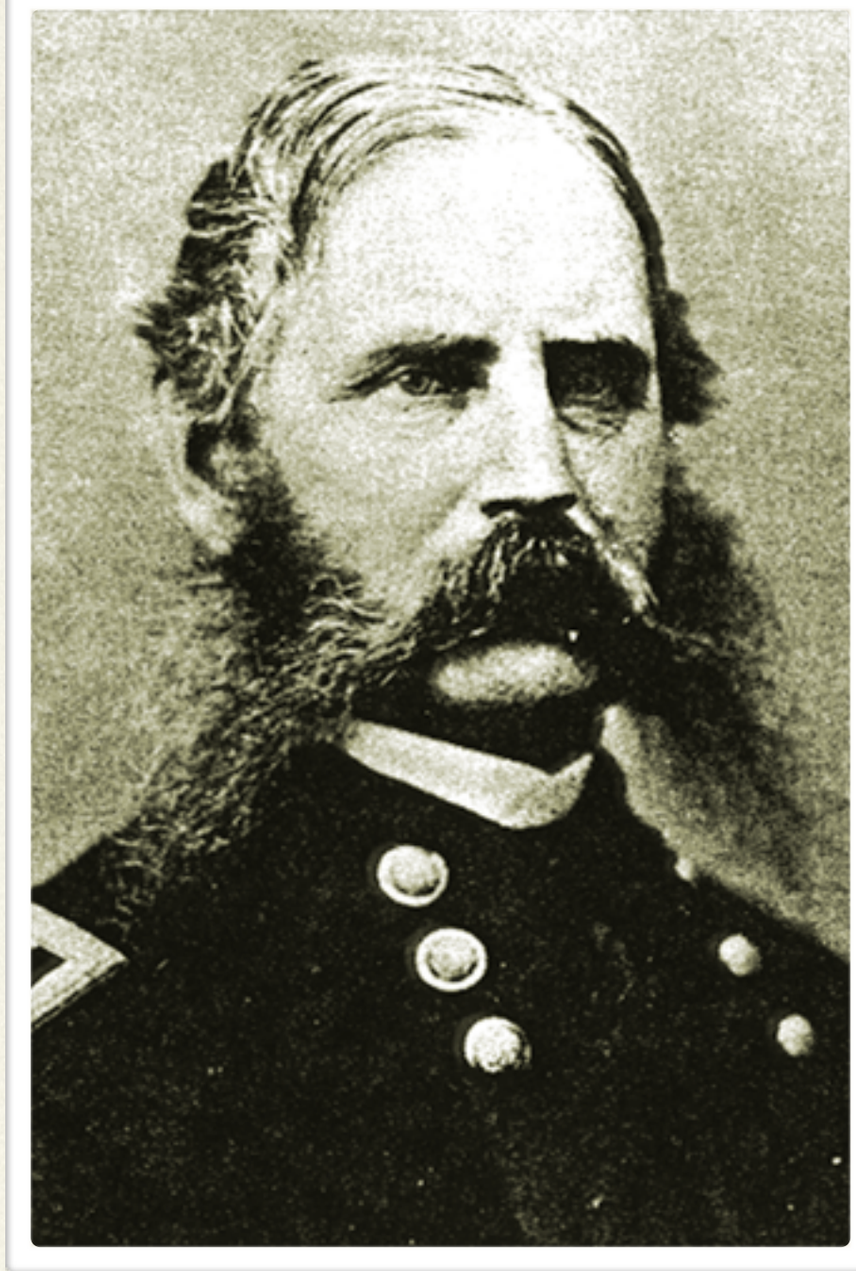


Built around a square upper and lower parade ground, Fort Hoskins consisted of three officer's quarters on the view property overlooking the Luckiamute River to the south, a large enlisted men's barracks on the northern edge of the parade ground near a powder magazine and root cellar, the adjutant's office, flagpole, and guard house (jail) along the east side, and a large warehouse, bakery, laundry and other small buildings on the western edge of the lower parade ground. A boardwalk descended the bank to the infirmary near the current Frantz-Dunn house.



1st Sergeant Richard Fox,
shown in dress uniform, served in Company F, 1st Infantry, Oregon Volunteers at Fort Hoskins in 1864 & 1865.

Christopher Columbus Augur was born in Kendall New York Jan. 6, 1898. He graduated 16th in his class West Point in 1843 & graduated with Ulysses Grant (general and future President). Augur arrived at Fort Hoskins with Company G, 4th Infantry July 25, 1856 at the site chosen by Brig General John E. Wool who favored the site for its proximity to Kings Valley and Luckiamute Indian trail used by the Siletz tribe. Augur moved eastward to become Commandant of cadets at West Point 1861. He was appointed Brigadier of volunteers in 1861, serving under General Irvin McDowell. Augur was wounded at Cedar Mountain in August 1862. Later, he was awarded the rank of Brigadier General at the Siege of Port Hudson Louisiana in 1865.

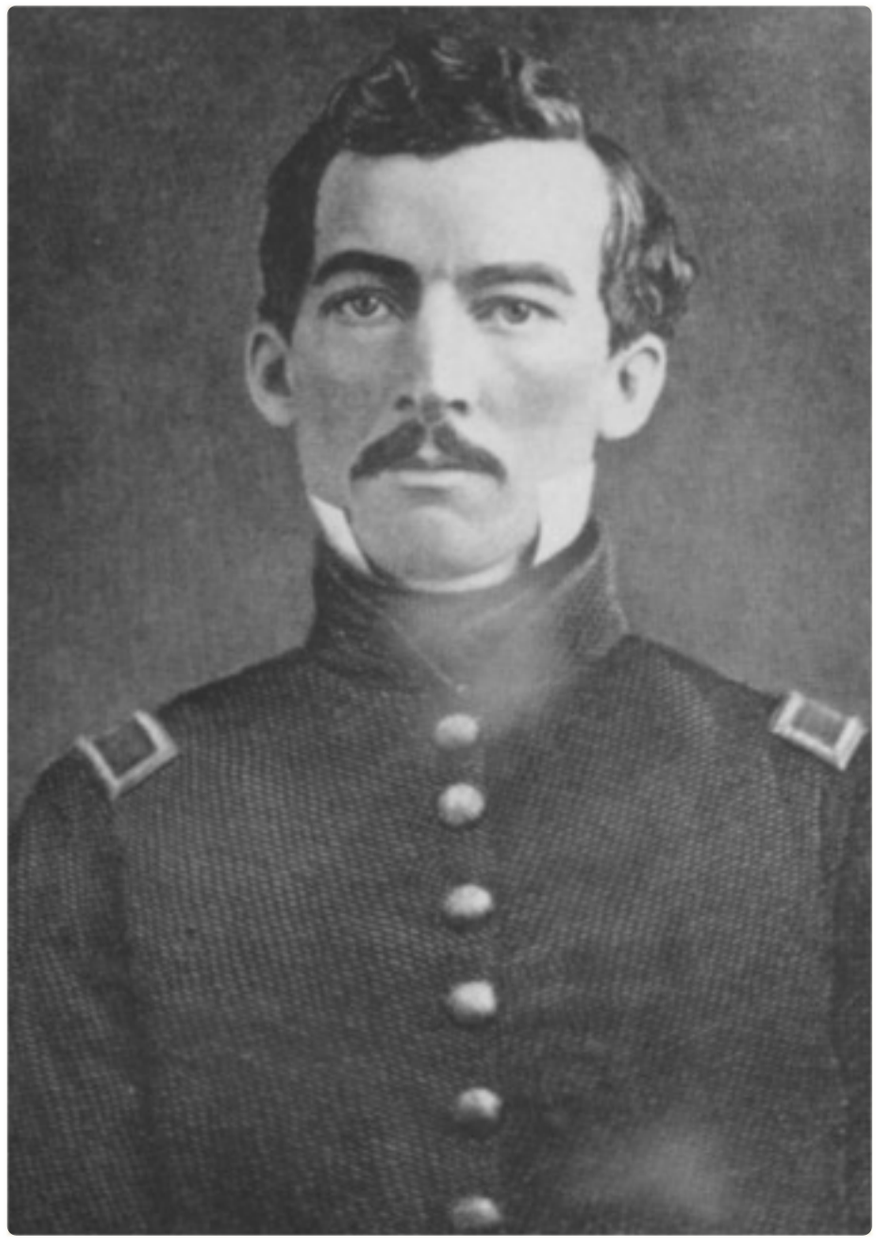


Interesting Facts:

Augur sat on the military court that tried those responsible for the raid on Harper's Ferry.

He was officer in charge of the escort of President Lincoln's body from the Peterson House to the White House after the assassination on April 14, 1865.

August 1886, he was grievously wounded when chastising a man for using foul language in front of his house in Washington.



Second Lieutenant Phillip Sheridan

Sheridan graduated from West Point near the bottom of his class in 1853, 34th in his class of 52 cadets. He had been suspended for a year because of a fight with a classmate in which he threatened to 'run him through' with a bayonet – for a perceived insult. Under orders from Captain Augur, Sheridan selected the site for Fort Hoskins, oversaw construction, and served as quartermaster for the first few months of operation. He had a close association with General-in-chief Ulysses S. Grant.

Sheridan served as commander of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac in the East. In 1864, he defeated Confederate forces in the Shenandoah Valley and became noted for 'scorched earth' tactics that destroyed the economic and agricultural infrastructure of the 'Breadbasket of the Confederacy.' In 1865, his cavalry forces were instrumental in isolating General Robert E. Lee's army and causing his surrender at Appomattox Court House. Sheridan fought in

Interesting Facts: .

Sheridan whose nickname was "Little Phil", only reached the height of 5 feet 5 inches tall.

Abraham Lincoln described him as: "A brown, chunky little chap, with a long body, short legs, not enough neck to hang him, and such long arms that if his ankles itch he can scratch them without stooping."

As a citizen he was instrumental in promoting the development and protection of Yellowstone National Park.

Journals, diaries and letters are considered ‘primary’ documents. They provide the actual words, impressions and emotions of people alive and active at a particular time in history. They offer our best opportunity for unbiased and accurate learning and understanding. Pretend that your are William M. Hillary, the author of the journal entry below. Use your best soldier’s voice to read this entry you recorded way-back in 1865. Do the Same on the next two pages.

Monday April 10, 1865

At nine a.m. Company B after giving three cheers for the Star Spangled Banner, and three cheers for Company F which compliment we returned, took up the line of march, enroute for Corvallis, where they will take steamer for Fort Dallas. This Post is virtually abandoned as a Post. Everybody acts like they had adjourned. The Boys have a stag dance tonight in dance room.

Based on A Webfoot Volunteer,

***The Diary of* William M. Hillary, 1864-1866**

Each year Civil War Re-enactors return to Fort Hoskins using authentic uniforms, equipment and even cannons to share their knowledge and passion.





link to videos



William M. Hillary, Served
Fort Hoskins 1864-1866

Wednesday April 12, 1865

Fours years ago I started from home in Iowa to the Pacific Coast. Today I have been busily engaging in packing the extra clothing, bed sacks etc. for an early start tomorrow. Received news that Lee, Jeff Davis and the Cabinet were all captured. Too good to be true. Jeff Davis and Beauregard, did try very hard to bring down the north so they could reign in, but they pulled up stakes, they did it by Joe, and all skedaddled to Mexico, and we can spare them from our "Happy Land of Canaan."

Based on "A Webfoot Volunteer,"

The Diary of William M. Hillary, 1864-1866

Corvallis Oregon, Thursday April 13, 1865

Left Fort Hoskins at 8 am. I was Corporal of Wagon Guard. After we had passed over the hilly portion of the route, the Guard climbed aboard the wagons and the drivers cracked their whips and we went ahead at a lively jog, arriving at Corvallis in advance of Company F. We unloaded at the wharf. The company arrived soon after. The boys feeling somewhat free began to imbibe rather freely and were soon quite jolly. We stand guard tonight under the Warehouse by the river's bank. The bells are pealing with joy, anvils being fired, all union folks rejoicing over the capture of Lee's army and fall of Richmond.

Based on A Webfoot Volunteer,

The Diary of William M. Hillary, 1864-1866

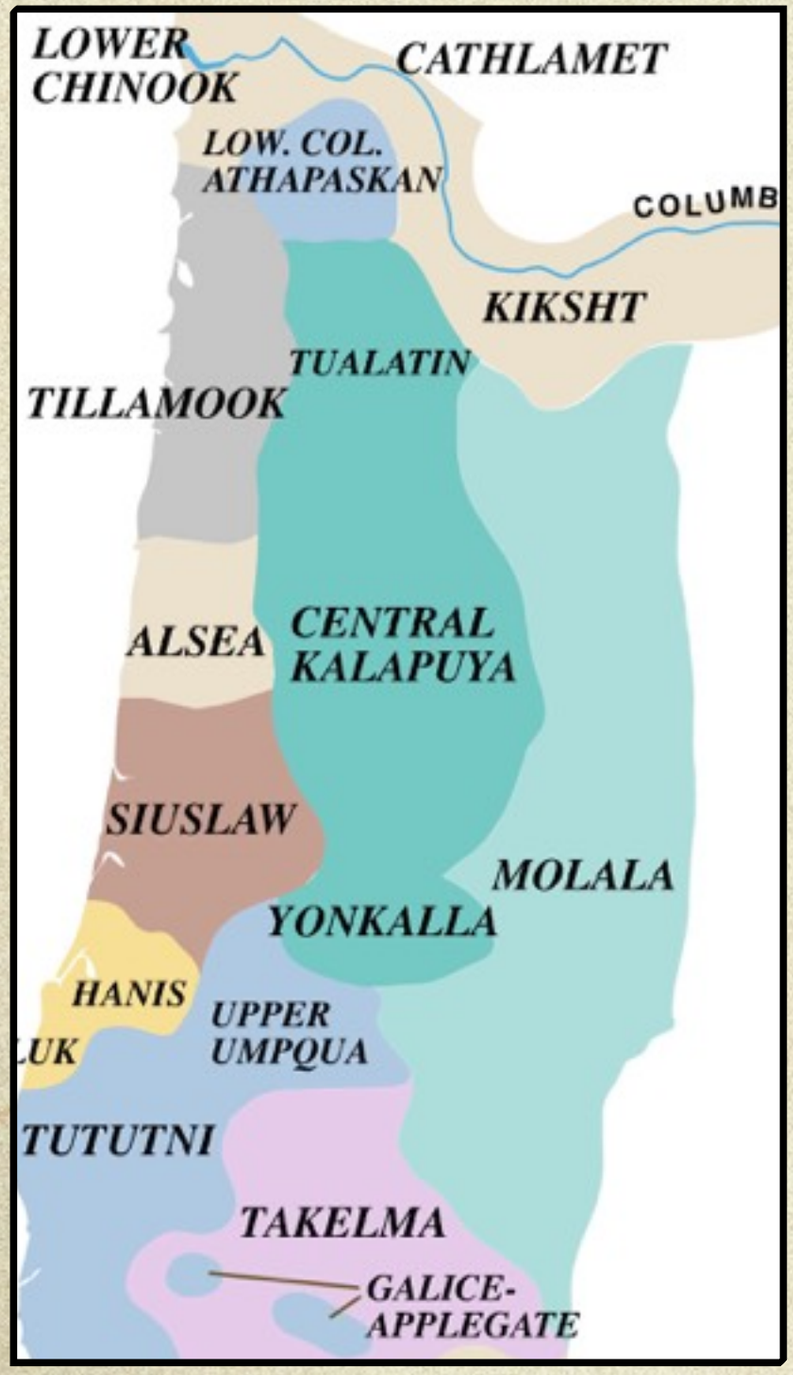




Coast (Siletz) and Grand Ronde Indian Reservations

Chapter Six
Oregon's First People II

Coast (Siletz) & Grand Ronde Indian Reservations



Western Oregon Tribes prior to Treaties and Reservations.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde have ancient origins in western Oregon. Their ancestors ceded approximately 20 million acres to the United States in the 1850's under treaties promising a permanent reservation.
In 1855, President Franklin Pierce created the Siletz Reservation. Many western Oregon tribes were marched, and permanently located, there to form the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.
In 1857, President James Buchanan confirmed the boundaries of the Grand Ronde Reservation, which had been established in 1856 (primarily for the Willamette and Umpqua Valley Tribes). The relocation of Tribes from northern Califonia and southern Oregon came to be described as the "trail of tears" Many died because of intolerable conditions.



A depiction of Chief John as the people of the tribes of the Rogue River were forcibly marched north to be placed on the Siletz Reservation.

Early conditions on the reservations included starvation, disease, violence, forced labor and strict military enforcement of Federal Indian policy. Once under military guard on the reservations, the Indian people were not able to resist. Ample evidence indicates that tribal people in the vicinity of the fort suffered abuse and violence. Indians were only allowed to leave the reservation with written permission of the Indian Agents. Indians who failed to return after their work-passes expired or who left the reservations in defiance of the agent, had soldiers (from Forts Hoskins, Yamhill, Umpqua, or Siletz Blockhouse) sent after them to march them back to the reservation. Punishment included the whipping post, imprisonment, hard labor and shaving heads.

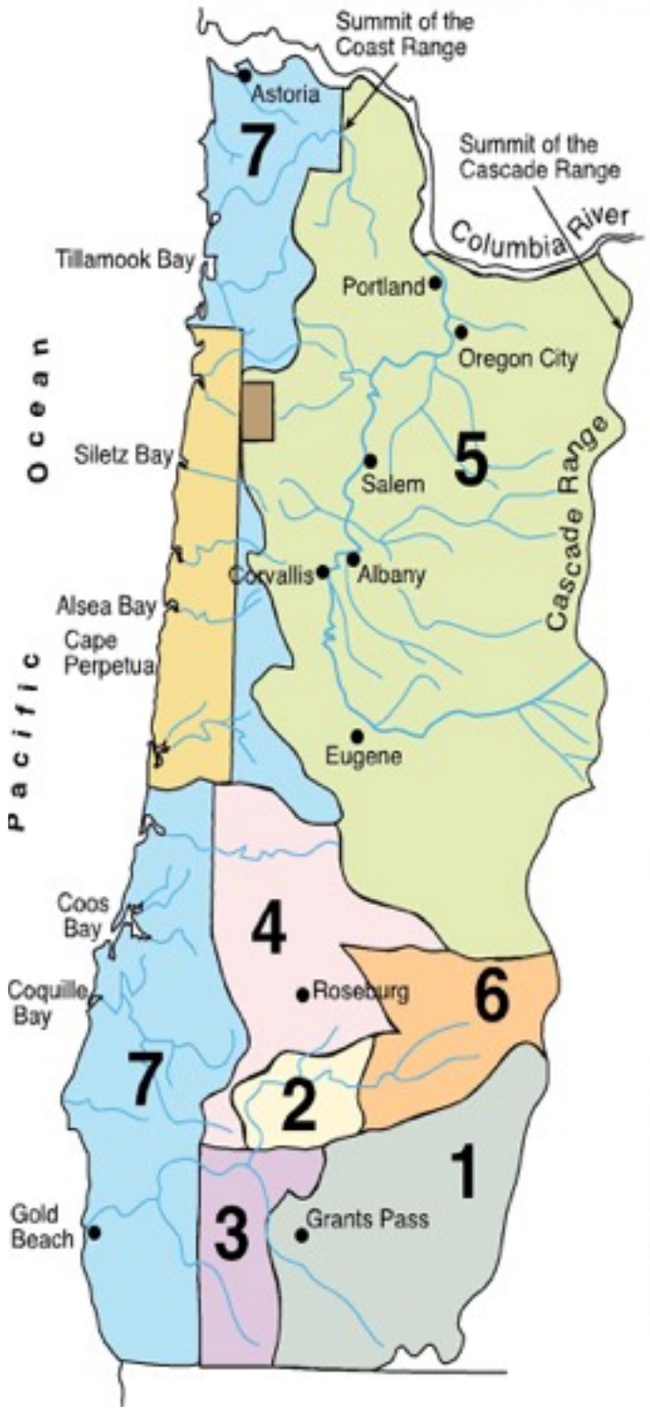


Kalapuya Chief Shangretta
Willamette Valley Treaty signer
who led his people to the Grand
Ronde Reservation.



The Siletz Agency was particularly difficult to supply especially in winter, so women were marched over the mountain trail to Fort Hoskins where each would load at least one 100-lb. sack of flour on her back for the return trek to Siletz.

Treaty Areas of Western Oregon



Ratified Treaties

1. Rogue River Treaty 1853
2. Cow Creek Treaty 1853
3. Chasta, Scoton and Grave Creek Treaty 1854
4. Umpqua and Kalapuya Treaty 1854
5. Willamette Valley Treaty 1855
6. Molel Treaty 1855

Unratified Treaty

7. Coast Treaty 1855

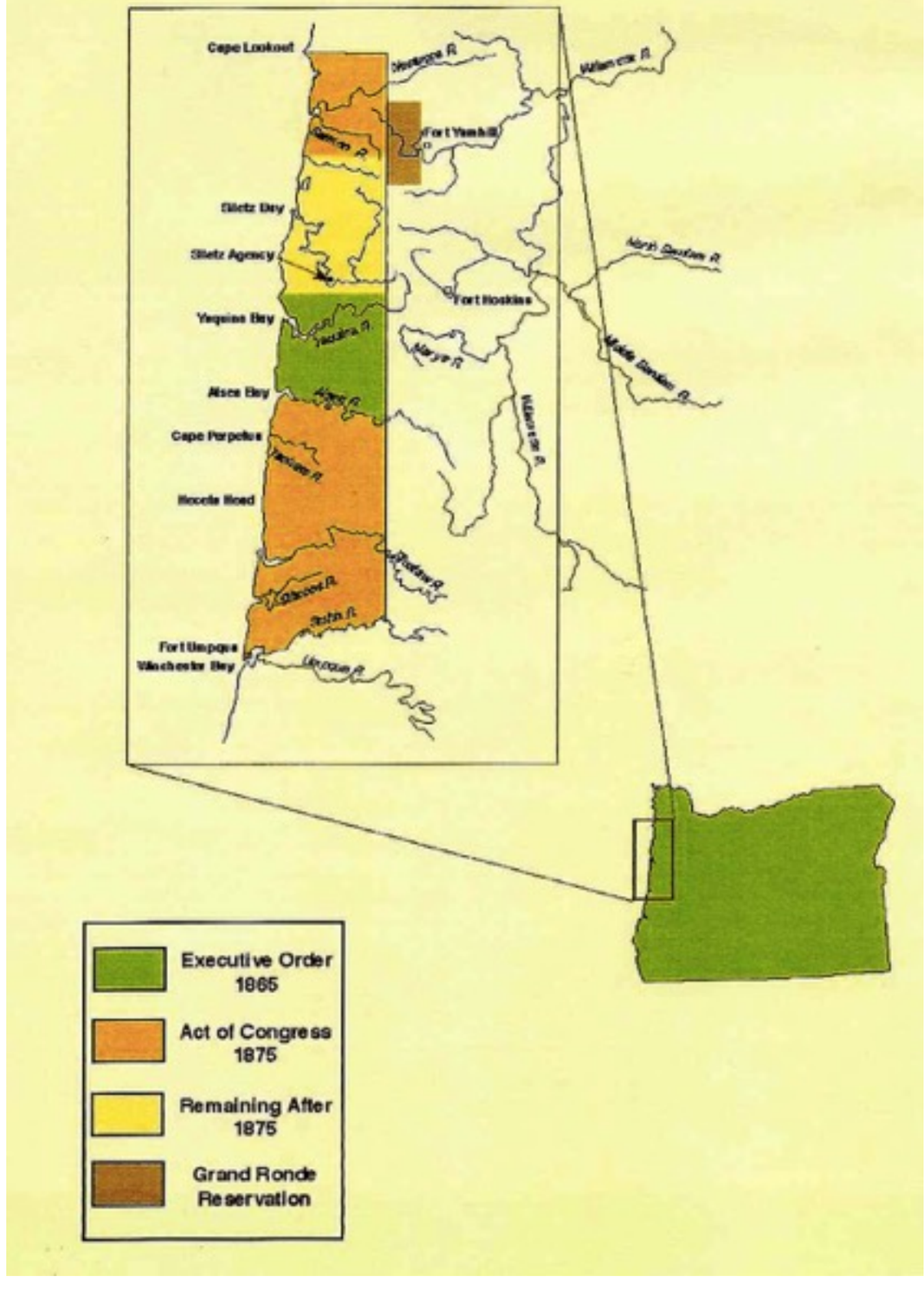
Reservations

Grand Ronde Reservation 1857

Coast (Siletz) Reservation 1855

The Coast (Siletz) & Grand Ronde Reservations

The original Coast (Siletz) Reservation showing intended reductions in 1865 and 1875.



Office Superintendent Indian Affairs
Salem, Ogn. June 1st 1863

Sir

The attention of this office has been called by numerous complaints of citizens, to the large number of Indians, belonging to the different reservations in the state, now roaming at large among the white settlements. The evil effects of unrestricted intercourse of Indians with whites, in corrupting and demoralizing the former, are so manifest that it is not considered necessary to set them forth in this circular. Agents are directed to endeavor to procure the return of all straggling Indians, as soon as practicable, and to prevent them from again escaping. Extreme caution should be used in permitting them to travel beyond the limits of the Reservation. Passes should be granted, only when clearly necessary, and strict care should be taken, to see that the Indians return, when the pass expires. Agents are directed to report to this office, the number of Indians now absent from the several reservations without passes.

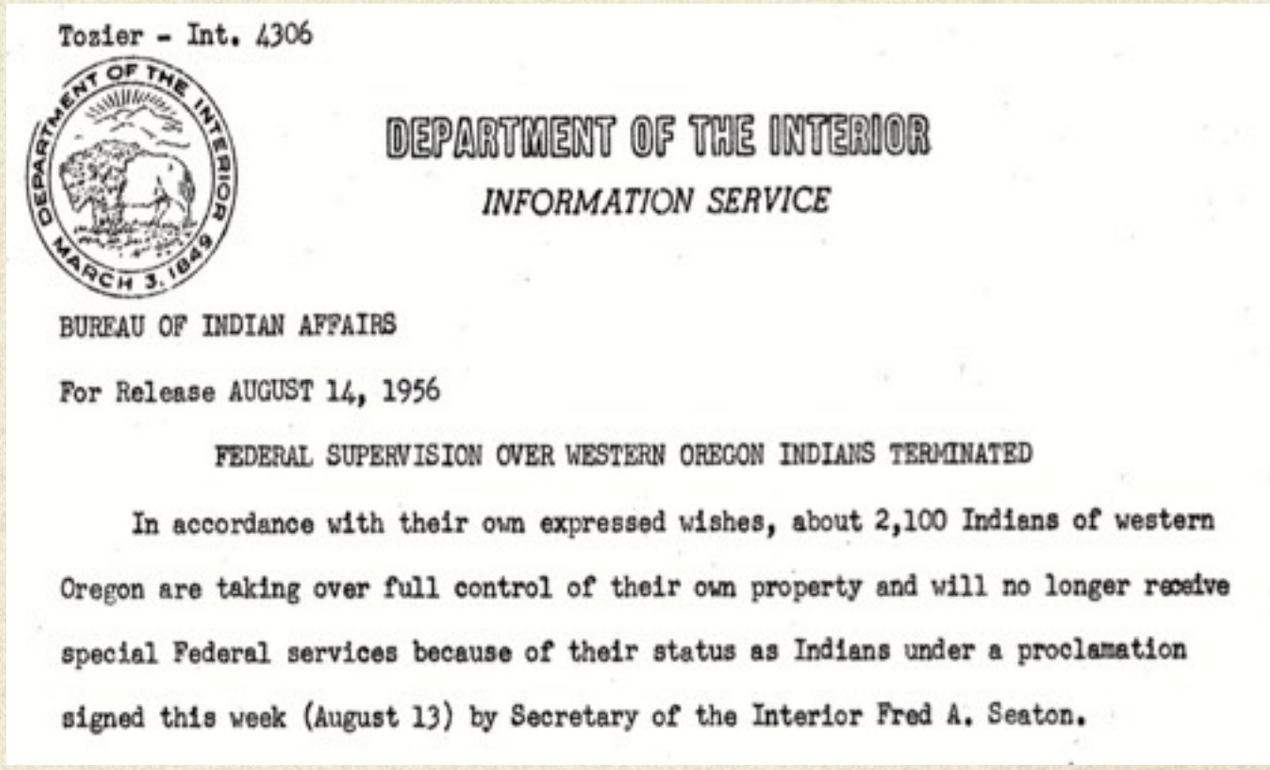
Agt. Ben Simpson
Siletz Agency

Very Respectfully &c
J. W. Perit Huntington
Supt. Indian Affairs

In 1865, President Andrew Johnson ordered a 200,000-acre parcel of the Coast (Siletz) Reservation (surrounding Yaquina Bay to the Alsea River) opened to non-Indian settlement. In 1875, Congress took another 700,000 acres (the entire Alsea Sub-Agency and the area north of the mouth of the Salmon River). Through Allotment and other policies, both reservations lost additional lands.
In 1954, Congress terminated governmental relations with all western Oregon tribes, and disposed of the last remaining reservation lands. Through the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887, the reservations lost additional acreage as non-allotted lands were sold as surplus. Grand Ronde lost over 25,000 acres of its original 60,000 reservation. You can read the Termination act by **tapping** the link below



Hudson family of Grand Ronde with Grandma Martha Sands with baskets



Tozier - Int. 4306

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

For Release AUGUST 14, 1956

FEDERAL SUPERVISION OVER WESTERN OREGON INDIANS TERMINATED

In accordance with their own expressed wishes, about 2,100 Indians of western Oregon are taking over full control of their own property and will no longer receive special Federal services because of their status as Indians under a proclamation signed this week (August 13) by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton.

http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/text/idc016151.pdf

In the 1970's the Siletz and Grand Ronde Tribes reorganized. In 1977, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians became the second tribe nationally to have federal recognition as a tribe restored by Congress. In 1980, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde regained their tribal status by an act of Congress. The tribe have a re-instituted tribal government, programs for tribal member services, economic development, etc., while maintaining strong cultural identity, value and traditions.

Photos on the next three pages were taken at the Gathering of Nations Powwow - Winter 2014, in Salem, Oregon.





Canoe carver Willy Towner from the Siletz Tribe displayed three canoes, two carved of Western red cedar. The third canoe, from a Sitka spruce, was actually being carved at the powwow.







Today the Tribes present a vibrant and expanding vision and reality.





Chapter Seven
King's Valley





Kings Valley and the Hoskins Community



Siletz Hop Pickers



Among the first newcomers to arrive in this area was the King family, for which Kings Valley is named. At this southernmost tip of the valley, where the Luckiamute River flows out of the Coast Range, the community of Hoskins was founded – a gateway to one of the only three known access routes to the coast reservation. Just prior to construction of Fort Hoskins in 1856, the valley was a pastoral agricultural community of people geographically isolated and very self-sufficient. Inhabitants grew and made most of what they needed. Farmers raised livestock and cultivated grain crops, hops, orchards and vegetables, often employing native people as farm workers, including hop pickers. For some time, whites often bartered with natives. During the dry season, people traveled to Corvallis, Oregon City or Portland for manufactured goods. Community social life included visiting neighbors, attending school and church services provided by teachers and itinerant preachers, and cooperating in harvests and barn raisings.

Funeral procession for John Graham
of Kings Valley, April 5, 1914 (LEFT)

In November 1866, Samuel and Mary Frantz arrived with their seven children and purchased 640 acres of land from Henry VanPeer which included the recently decommissioned Fort Hoskins and a sawmill on the river below. The mill, which Frantz modernized and operated with his sons and partners, became an early economic hub in southern Kings Valley.

Residents built the first Hoskins School near the Frantz mill in 1875, followed in the mid-1880s by a general store which incorporated a post office in 1891. Construction of the Valley and Siletz Railroad began in 1912, and the company selected the small community of Hoskins as the administrative headquarters and built worker housing, a rail yard, and engine repair shops in town. With direct rail connections to the outside world, the sawmill expanded operations and the town grew quickly, requiring a new school built near the fort site in 1915.

The Hoskins General Store was torn down in 1963 and the Valley & Siletz Railroad ceased operations in 1978. The last commercial enterprise in Hoskins, the Fort Tavern, closed its doors in 2000.



Chambers Dunn Grist Mill Kings Valley



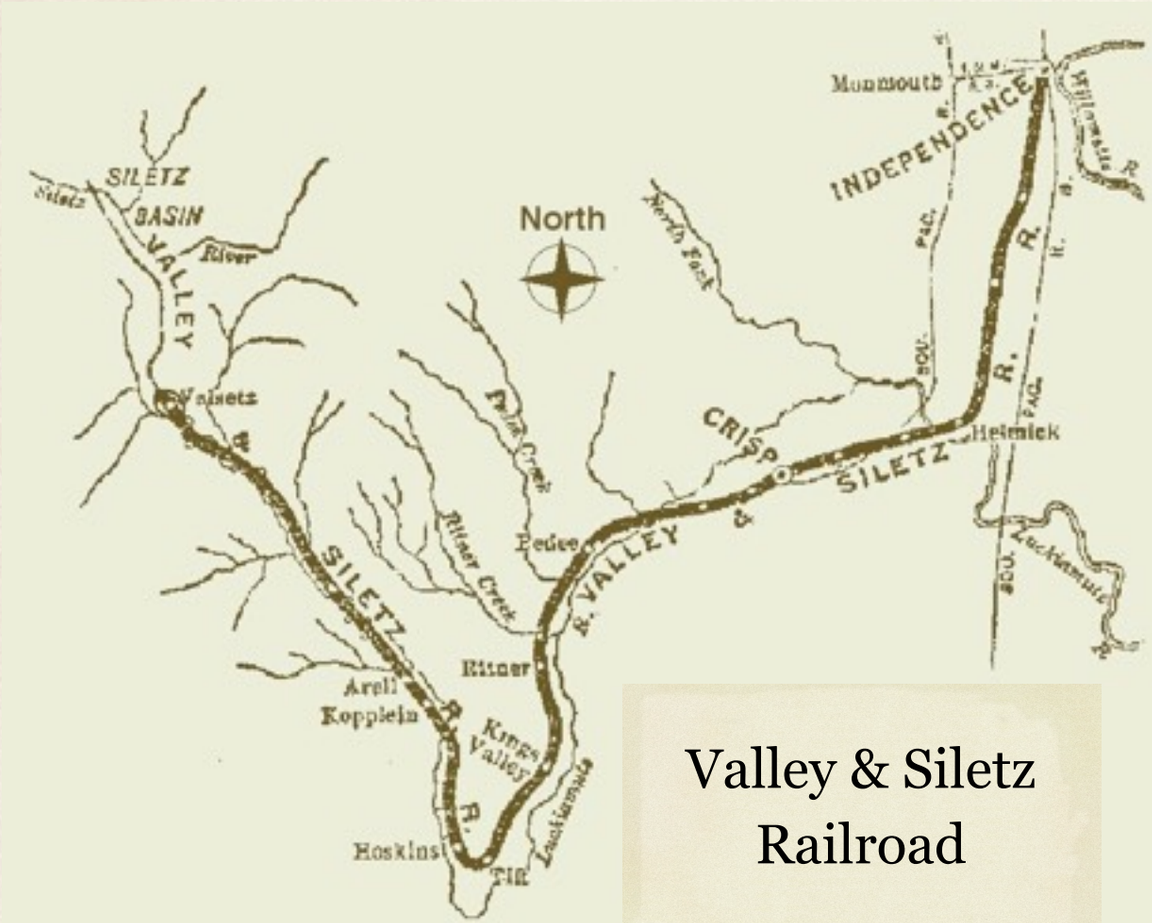


The Cobbs and Mitchell Lumber Company acquired large timber holdings in western Polk and eastern Lincoln counties in 1904 with the expectation of logging the area sometime in the mid 1940's. However, one of Oregon's many forest fires heavily damaged much of their holdings. In order to salvage as much timber as possible, it was necessary to build the Valley & Siletz Railroad much sooner that originally planned. At the height of railroad operations Hoskins boasted a roundhouse, turntable, shop facilities, water tower, yard office and switching yards. However, as use of the railroad declined, the facilities fell into disrepair and by the 1970's the area looked more like a living history museum than a working railroad yard.



Valley & Siletz Railroad

vanishing rights-of-way



Valley & Siletz Railroad

Between 1912 and 1978, Hoskins was the center of operations for the Valley and Siletz railroad. The 40-mile line was constructed between 1912 and 1917 to access timber in the Oregon Coast Range but quickly became popular with sportsmen and local residents as a means of travel. In 1918 the V&S filed with the Inter-state Commerce Commission as a “common carrier” with published tariffs, just like the “big railroads.” However, the line’s fortunes were always tied to the forest industry and as logging declined, the need for the V & S ceased. The last revenue run to Valsetz was made in September 1978 and the track was abandoned soon after.





Locomotive #10, seen here circa 1913, was the first locomotive acquired by the Valley and Siletz Railroad. It had been built for the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co. by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1880, and was already obsolete in 1913 when purchased second-hand for $4000 by the V & S. It was converted to burn oil, was used until the construction of the railroad was complete and was scrapped in 1919.

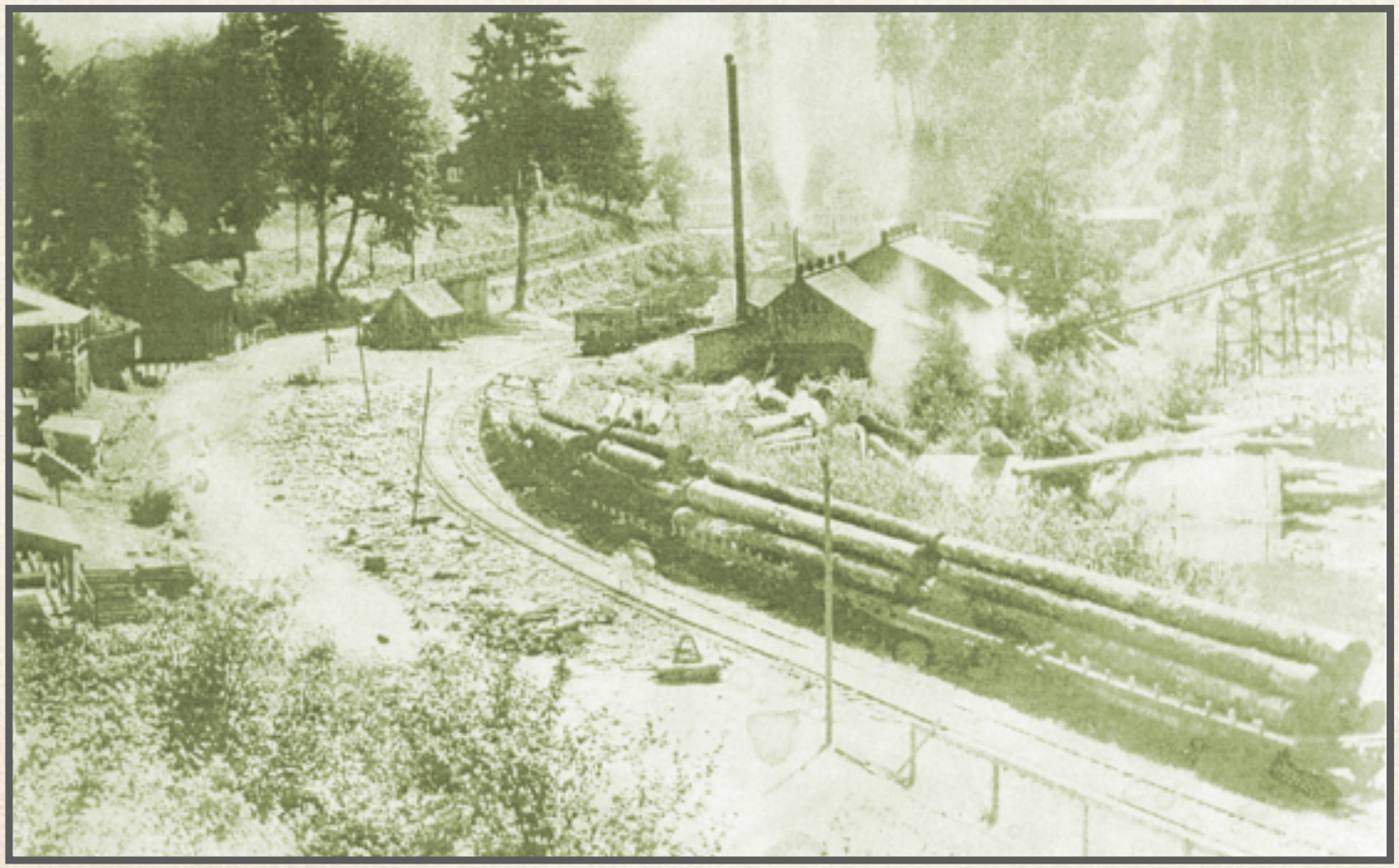


The town of Hoskins



The town of Hoskins and the Frantz sawmill, located on the Luckiamute River, provided lumber for the surrounding community. With the arrival of the Valley and Siletz Railroad, the mill became a major economic enterprise in southern Kings Valley.

A train yard loaded with logs ready for the sawmill at the frontier town of Hoskins Oregon, in Kings Valley.



Chapter Eight
The Commander's House



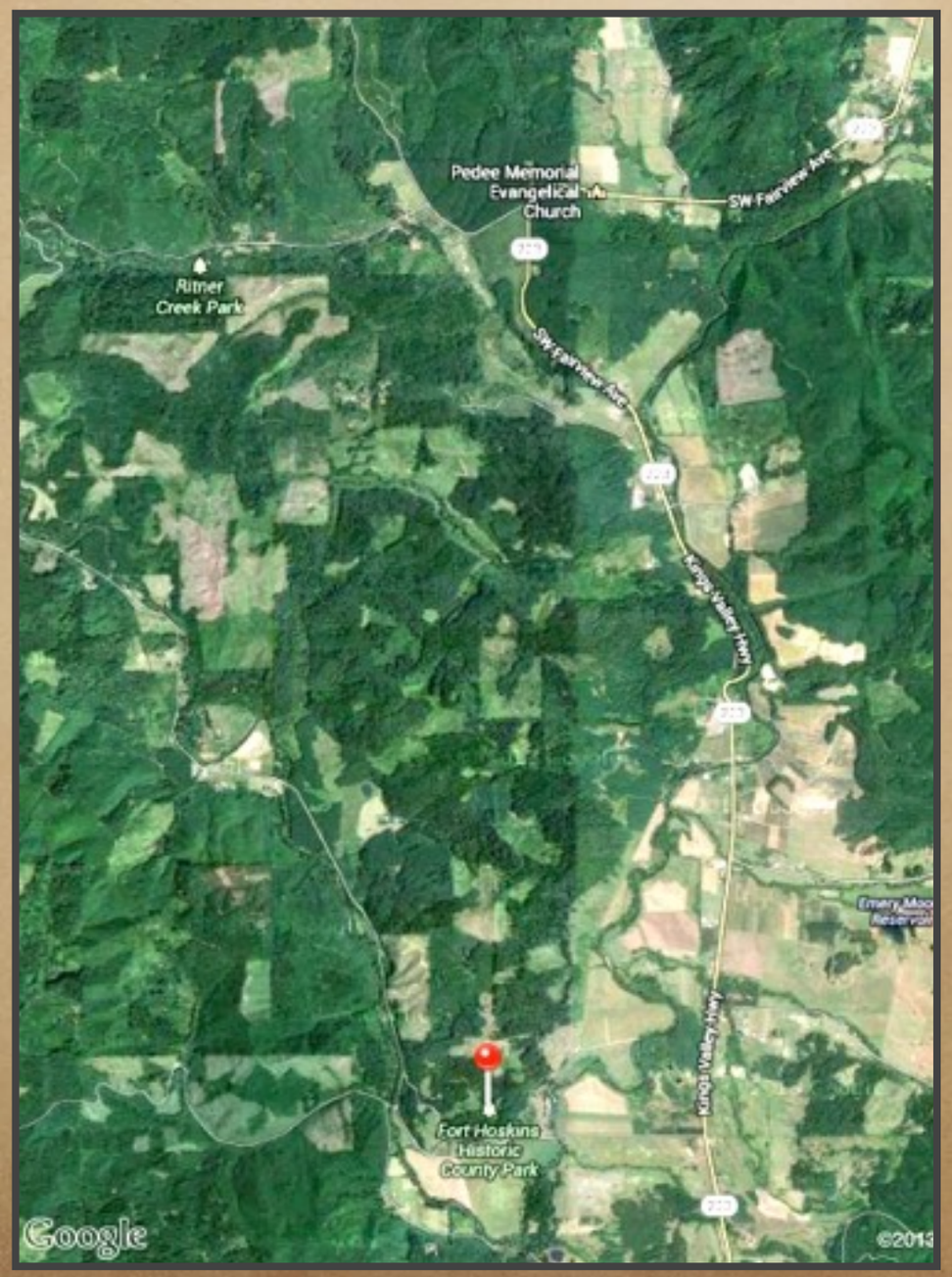
With the surrender at Appomattox in April 1865 Fort Hoskins was decommissioned. Buildings were auctioned off and either moved, burned or left on site. The Commander's House stayed at Fort Hoskins and was used by the Frantz family while their house (today's Frantz-Dunn House) was being built nearby. Eventually. The Commander's House was reportedly acquired by Samuel Coad who owned a house on the Fort Hoskins site before the Army leased the land. Coad had the house moved around 1869 to Pedee onto land near his mother-in-law's property. The lease agreement said there was a house on the site, and if it was torn down the Army had to leave a house of equal or greater value when the fort was abandoned.



The Commanders House was moved back to Fort Hoskins November 2012

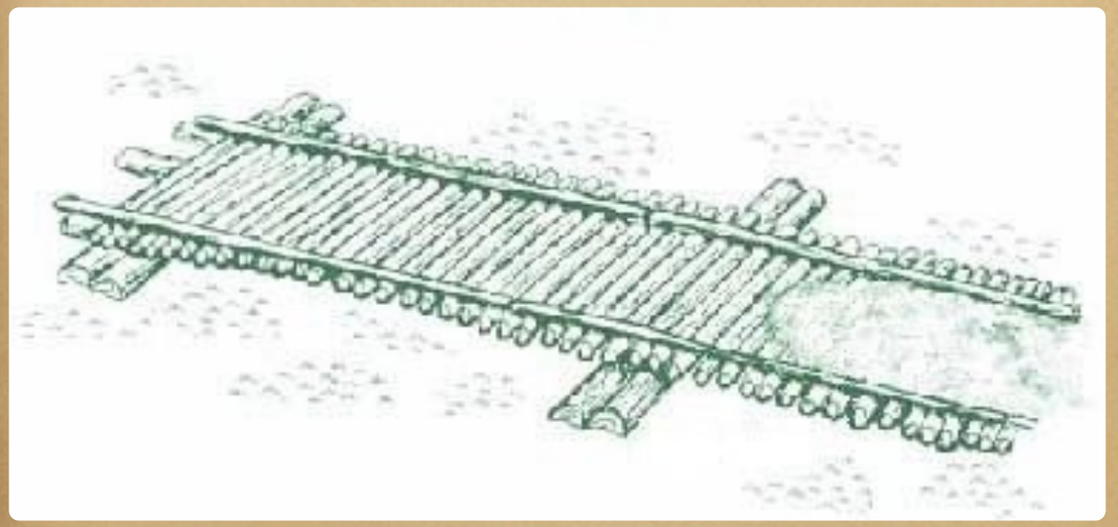
Samuel Coad was a carpenter who built many houses in Kings Valley – two are still standing in Dallas, Oregon. Coad was hired to build Fort Hoskins, and worked on the Commanders House. One of the mysteries is whether Coad's original house was torn down to supply wood for the Commanders House. Some of the beams in the house appear to have been used before the house was built.

In 1869, The Commander's House was moved from Fort Hoskins eight miles up the road to the community of Peedee. Some debate exists as to how the house was transported over the rough roads and hilly countryside.



While it is possible and the technology did exist to move the building from Fort Hoskins to Peedee it would have taken a gargantuan effort involving draft animals dragging the house on its sill. Evidence would suggest that the building was moved in pieces. Throughout the house several 4"x 4" wall posts are turned sideways, exposing the presence of earlier lath and plaster marks that had been rotated during the building's reassembly.

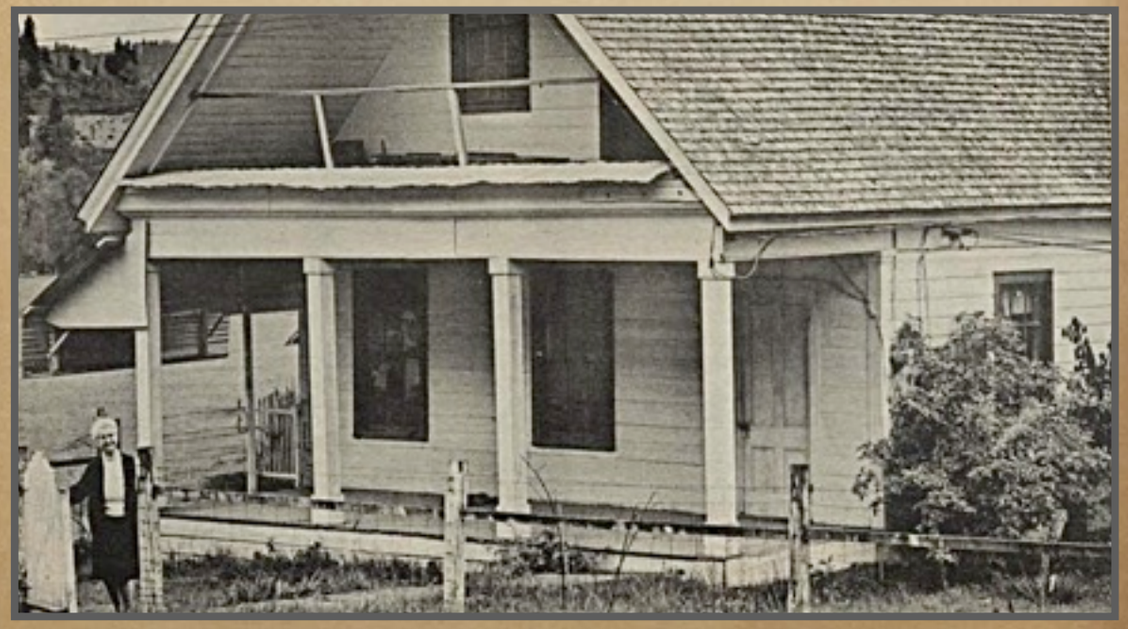
An example of a 'corduroy road'



This image is a work of the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. As a work of the U.S. federal government, the image is in the public domain.

The Commanders house in 1959





Lt. Phillip Sheridan's home from Fort Hoskins was moved to the Gilliam farm at Pedee.
That is Lena Belle Tartar at the gate.

Professor David Brauner on 'the move.'



"It was an astounding exposition of applied physics" is how David Brauner Ph.D, & OSU anthropologist describes the three day operation to move the Commander's House back to its home at Fort Hoskins. " It was sort of like giving birth to another member of my family - it' s hard to describe the feeling of seeing this building back on the site ... it was very, very moving for me and I know other people who have been involved in this project for quite a few years. " David Brauner Ph.D



This heirloom painting that has been in the Augur family for almost 150 years is helping to accurately restore the outside of the Commander's House. The painting depicts the fort and locations of buildings, number of windows and color of the roofs.

The artist, origin and year it was painted are unknown but there is no doubt to its authenticity according to OSU Professor David Brauner.

"We hoped sooner or later we'd see an image of at least one of the buildings at Fort Hoskins,... when this painting arrived it was like a breath of fresh air." The painting came into the possession of Fort Hoskins in a most peculiar manner.



A misspelling of the Commander Augur's name on a historical panel near the parade ground caught the eye of great-grandson Dr. Newell Augur of Portland (Maine). It was clear to Newel that his name was misspelled A-U-G-E-R. Augur contacted George McAdams community project coordinator for Benton County to ask for the mistake to be corrected. Newell Augur who toured the fort in 2008 made a connection to a painting hanging in his brother's house. "I walked into his living room and there on the wall was a painting that had been attributed to Fort Lewis, but I instantly knew it was Fort Hoskins."



Thirteen-month old Newell Daniels, with his mother Anne Augur and grandfather Newell Augur gathered at Fort Hoskins November 2, 2013. They came to visit the place where the child's great-great grandfather was born to Christopher Colon Augur, the fort's first commander. He lived there with his wife Jane Arnold Augur and nine children.

.

The great-great-great-grandson of Captain Colon Augur has the look of historic distinction.



"To be able to bring my son to a place where his great-great-great grandfather was born – that's a connection, that's living history," "To be able to introduce children to that is wonderful."

A discussion of how elements of the interior provide clues to the history of the building.



Much insight into the history of the interior is informed by Oregon State University teacher and grad student Kathleen Bryant. She is working to prepare a restoration of the interior design based on research for her doctoral thesis. Some highlights include: The house was likely decorated with fine rugs, table cloths, china & furniture."

"This was the original mantel piece here. The fire box we're fairly certain was the original." "The captain and his wife's bedroom was on the ground floor, while the children – all nine of them – slept upstairs." "The interior would have been beautiful," "They had the means and the taste."







As you can see the interior of the Commander's House shows nothing but promise and potential.





Valley News

Vol. 23 PM Edition

Friday February 13, 2015

Fort Hoskins Makes the News

Dozens of articles about Fort Hoskins have been featured in local newspapers, TV stations, blogs & history chat rooms. Here are a few. **TAP** newspapers to access these interesting articles.













Chapter Nine
Hoskins School

A small elementary school was constructed on this foundation in 1915. The schoolhouse was abuzz with the spirited sounds of 20-25 children in grades 1 through 8. When the population of the area increased following construction of the Valley & Siletz Railroad though Hoskins, mill owner Samuel Frantz donated an acre of land for this school.¶
During rainy winters, it was often too muddy for children to make the trip to school, so the original academic year was only four months long, beginning in April. However, this schedule coincided with the height of the agricultural season, so many children—particularly the boys who were needed for farm-related chores—missed a great deal of class time. In the 1920's, the school adopted a standard nine-month academic year that began in September.



Class of 1917 Teacher Rea Allen and pupils Arthur Lyday, George Frantz, Barton Plunkett, Lottie Scaggs, Maudie Plunkett, Marvin Girard, Lela Frantz, Fred Frantz, and Ruth Lyday.







This schoolhouse also served as a community meeting hall, where during the cooler, wet months, people gathered for potlucks, social events, and Christmas programs, often organized by the school teacher. In the warmer months, the community held social events and meetings outdoors.

In the 1950s, when the school closed, the land reverted to the Frantz family and local children attended classes in Kings Valley. The building was used as a repair shop, frame storage building and rental housing until a fire destroyed it in the early 1980's. The large elm tree that once shaded the schoolyard still grows, and many of the perennial flowers that came up around the foundation each spring might have been planted by early school teachers and their pupils.

On the sloping, once open hillside below the school, students played baseball.



According to Audrey Theurer who attended the school, “No child in Hoskins ever learned to play baseball on a flat field.”

Hoskins School was destroyed by a fire. The cement foundation and a few charred remnants are all that remain at the location.







Seasonal fog and some charred remains
at the site of the Hoskins School

Chapter Ten
Credits and Links

Credits Page

The Fort Hoskins Walking Tour publication was made possible by a generous grant from the Benton County Cultural Coalition.
Additional thanks for support should be expressed to Afrana - Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks, and the Benton County Historical Society and Museum.
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Digital editor Mike Jager of the History Ninjas & NMC
"The Commander's House Move" video by George Gentry
Professor David Brauner Ph.D from OSU & Carol Leslie from AFRANA & Steve Long appear in the Commander's House Video.

Media coverage for the Fort Hoskins digital publications by the History Ninjas and New Media Concepts

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TAP links to visit sites for:

Benton County Cultural Coalition

http://www.bentonculture.org

Benton County Oregon

http://www.co.benton.or.us/parks/index.php

afrana Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas

http://afrana.org/Support%20AFRANA.html

Benton County Historical Society & Museum

http://www.bentoncountymuseum.org